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TORONTO • WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2009 metronews.ca

Celebrity pg 41

Extent of actress's injuries not clear

People still thinking of others

CHARITY Salvation Army administrators say the annual Red Kettle campaign set a record of $130 million US in donations last year despite the recession.

Red Kettle donations in the United States were up 10 per cent from 2007 and represented the biggest one-year jump since 1997, yet came during a holiday season when many retailers suffered financially.

The Salvation Army attributes the increase to partnerships with Wal-Mart and the National Hockey League, its use of "cashless kettles" that accepted credit card donations, and a text messaging service that allowed cellphone users to contribute via their phone bills. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Riding the **Recession**

Looking for ways to save money and ride out the economic storm? Now through the end of March, Metro will share advice on how to cut down on expenses and navigate your way through the recession.

• Entertainment

The effect the economy is having on music venues and touring artists, pg 36

• Tomorrow

Food – Some tips for brown-bagging lunches and local meals for a steal.

• Friday

Entertainment – How the recession is changing the musical landscape for fans, music publications and even TV.

Fashion **Perfect fit**

RICK EGLINTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Cassie Campbell, former Team Canada women's hockey captain, gets fitted yesterday by designer Pam Chorley for the Heart Truth fashion show. Campbell was one of many celebrities modelling a red dress in support of women's heart health at last night's second annual Heart Truth fashion show during Toronto Fashion Week. More Toronto Fashion Week coverage, page 38.

Hitting the road?

Chrysler looking at Plan B

Chrysler is already considering where it could move its Canadian operations if it can't get a deal with the Canadian Auto Workers union by the end of the month, sources said yesterday.

A source said Chrysler has begun to consider "alternative locations with more competitive cost structures" for its Canadian operations, which employ about 10,000 hourly workers at assembly plants in Brampton and Windsor, and a casting plant in Toronto.

"There is very real and significant risk to good paying automotive jobs in Canada, at least as it stands for Chrysler, if, in fact, (the CAW) continues to hold onto this 1930s vestige of economic pattern bargaining," said the source.

"We are hopeful that our discussions with the CAW will achieve the objective of closing the CAW labour cost gap — and ensure our long-term viability," the company said in a statement emailed to The Canadian Press. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Labour costs

• Chrysler estimates its all-in hourly labour costs — which include wages, benefits and legacy costs such as pensions — to be approximately $76. To be competitive with Toyota plants operating in Canada, it says it needs to reduce those costs to $57 per hour.

Shortlived dream

For five glorious minutes, Paul Kusznirewicz thought he was a multimillionaire.

It was Dec. 8 at the Georgian Downs casino in Innisfil, when the 55-year-old sat stupefied with shock, gawking at the Buccaneer slot machine — Jackpot! You've won $42.9 million.

It was all for naught, though, when casino personnel told Kusznirewicz the machine was broken and he wouldn't be able to collect his prize.

But as compensation for any confusion, Kusznirewicz was offered four coupons for the casino's dinner buffet.

Yesterday, Kusznirewicz's lawyer, Bryan McPhadden, served the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation with legal papers. Kusznirewicz believes he should be compensated.

The OLG has countered that the maximum payout for the Buccaneer slot game — a two-cent-per-play machine — is $9,025. "It malfunctioned. It clearly malfunctioned," said spokesperson Allison Sparkes. "Each machine has a posted sign that says malfunction voids all pays and plays." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Warrant uncovers surprising discovery

Police say a loaded sawed-off rifle found in the Pauline Avenue home of a 19-year-old Toronto man was reported stolen three years ago. Officers say that, while executing a search warrant, they also seized ammunition, drugs and cash from the home in the Dufferin and Bloor streets area. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Local

Nut allergy food recall

An allergy alert has prompted an Aurora-based importer to recall, under the supervision of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, some chocolate that was distributed across the GTA. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned on the weekend Brighton Beach Candy may contain walnuts not declared on the label and poses a risk to those allergic to those nuts. The individually foil-wrapped chocolate was sold in December at Aurora Deli, Center Deli, Knish Deli, Tania's Deli and Vetra Cheese & Deli. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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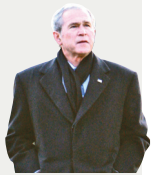
Tomorrow's Metro

Entertainment

Metro reviews Britney's first T.O. concert at the ACC.

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Video Duel protests get heated during George W. Bush's Calgary visit at **metronews.ca/canada**



Lotteries

Ontario Pick 3: 4 4 4; **Ontario Pick 4** : 5 1 7 7
Encore: 1922524
Daily Keno: 4, 6, 7, 8, 17, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28 35, 36, 42, 47, 54, 55, 62, 63, 67, 68
These results are not official.

Don't blame climate change

Early Spring's weather extremes will have negative impact on wildlife

It begins with the insects and spreads to the birds. Then, before you know it, your backyard is filled with wilting grass and the stench of tiny rotting corpses.

Spring might be celebrated as a new beginning, but when it comes this early, it is the beginning of the end. At least for the wildlife.

This year's extreme, near record-low snowfall expected for the month of March, could smash nature's delicate pattern. It could spell Armageddon for insects, the lifeblood of your backyard's ecosystem.

Those that survive will likely do so by hatching early, only to find plants have not yet sprouted. Either way, the birds are in trouble.

Birds time their hatching periods to coincide with traditional peaks in the insect population, when the most food is available for their young. But this year they will be lucky to regurgitate a blade of grass.

Mice, which also subsist largely on insects, will die, too. So will herbivores such as rabbits, which face an early-season drought fed by a lack of melting snow. To say nothing of your grass.

It is tempting to blame climate change, but this spring is 100 per cent natural.

In fact, said U of T professor Bryan Karney, it is virtually impossible to witness climate change in real time. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Survivors

• There is one species, aside from Homo sapiens, expected to pull through as strong as ever. In a cruel twist of fate, it will actually benefit from the mayhem. That species, it comes as no surprise, is the raccoon.

Hot dog! More street meat choice

Just a handful of people have proved willing to negotiate miles of red tape and pay tens of thousands of dollars for the right to sell you cart food more interesting than the lowly hot dog.

Eight vendors will finally be allowed to peddle their ethnic specialties in May, ranging from jerk chicken to bulgogi to pad thai — homey, cheap, open-air versions of foods already well loved by the city's sophisticated restaurant diners.

It's been a long time coming.

Nearly two years have passed since Queen's Park amended regulations to expand the cuisine on Toronto's streets beyond hot dogs and sausages.

MICAEL STUPARYK PIC/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

New vendors with Coun. John Filion in the background.

Vendors will have to fork over between $21,000 and $28,000 for new carts chosen by the city, plus pay annual location fees ranging from $5,000 to $15,000. In return they get near-monopolies at one of eight locations.

The pilot will run three years, but officials will assess it this fall to consider expanding it. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Enhanced licences in neutral

SECURITY There's still no firm date for when Ontario motorists will be able to use an enhanced driver's licence instead of a passport to cross into the United States.

Ontario's Ministry of Transportation has been promising to unveil its enhanced driver's licences sometime this spring.

A spokeswoman for the ministry says she cannot give a firmer date for the introduction of the new licences in Ontario.

Starting June 1, new American security regulations will require anyone entering the U.S. by land or sea to have a passport or an enhanced driver's licence. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

ShareYourViews
torontoletters@metronews.ca

News in brief

MURDER A Brampton man accused of second-degree murder in the Monday slaying of his mother made a brief court appearance yesterday and was remanded in custody. Justin Lima, 28, is to return to Brampton court March 24. Police have said there were obvious signs of trauma to the 59-year-old's body. It was Peel's fifth homicide. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

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Crown won't appeal former commissioner acquittal
The Ontario Attorney General's Department will not appeal the not guilty decision for former privacy commissioner George Radwanski. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Premier says support for recycling overhaul

The majority of Ontario's trash is ending up as landfill and as the province awaits a report on how to improve recycling efforts Premier Dalton McGuinty says there's enough public goodwill to support an overhaul of the system.

The transition, though, could include "difficulties" for residents and businesses, McGuinty warns.

A final report on ways to boost Ontario's 39 per cent recycling rate is due by week's end. It will address 10 issues, including how to potentially make companies cover the full cost of dealing with packaging and products once they're thrown away.

While the cost of running the blue bin program is currently split 50-50 between the business sector and municipalities, a so-called full extended producer responsibility program would see companies pay the entire cost.

McGuinty

Homeowners would no longer pay for recycling through property taxes. Rather, the cost of the blue box system would be buried in the price of all the packaged goods they purchase.

McGuinty wouldn't comment on any of the ideas currently being discussed but said he thinks people are willing to do more when it comes to recycling.

"Ontarians want to participate. They sense responsibility, they know that this planet is the only home we have," McGuinty said during a recent media availability.

"There may be some difficulties associated with the process... but I think our responsibility in a position of leadership is to find a way to tap into that goodwill.

"People are saying, 'Tell me how we can help,' and we have to make it as easy for them to help as possible." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Music **Purrfect unison**

MUCH MUSIC/SUBMITTED

Pussycat Dolls showed their team spirit during an interview at MuchMusic in Toronto yesterday. They are in town for two nights opening for Britney Spears on the Circus tour.

TTC real-time arrival too early

TRANSIT For web-based transit watchers, anticipating real-time, next-vehicle-arrival information on the TTC has become the online equivalent of waiting for the Queen streetcar.

It simply cannot come soon enough.

So when a link to the TTC's NextBus application — still in the very early test stages — was accidentally leaked online late Monday, there was a celebratory blip in the blogosphere.

Even TTC chair Adam Giambrone couldn't resist tweeting about the interest in the GPS-based computer application that allows riders to check when the bus is coming on their computer, PDA or cellphone.

But it turned out to be a tease.

By mid-afternoon yesterday it was clear that much of the leaked information, incomplete and inaccurate, wasn't ready for public consumption.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

First generation

- Last year, two Toronto programmers built myTTC.ca, a trip planner based on the TTC's schedules. That data was soon adapted to a Red Rocket iPhone application.

News in brief

PLUMMET Statistics Canada says January manufacturing sales dropped 5.4 per cent to $41.7 billion, it's lowest level in almost 10 years, as motor vehicle and motor vehicle parts industries, particularly in Ontario, reported record decreases during the month.

TRAIN Transport Minister John Baird appeared to pour cold water on the idea of high-speed rail along the Windsor-Quebec City corridor, saying so far it has proved too expensive and would serve too few people. He said a high-speed link has been talked about for decades and could cost up to $30 billion and serve 16 million people.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Halton council helps residents
Halton Region is proposing a budget freeze for 2010 in response to mounting job losses and the depressed state of the economy. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sad farewell for fallen soldier

Trooper Marc Diab was remembered yesterday as a cherished son, friend and mentor who in his brief 22 years touched many lives and gave his own in the name of peace.

Hundreds of mourners packed a church in west-end Toronto to remember the fallen soldier, who was killed March 8 in Afghanistan by a roadside bomb.

Diab's father paid tribute to his selfless son in an emotional eulogy.

"Marc, you once told me, 'I will make you proud of me,'" Hani Diab said. "Well, you really did it, son."

Marc Diab was born in Lebanon, and his family moved to Canada in 2000, where Hani Diab said his son was proud to serve his adopted country.

"You paid the ultimate price — your life — for the cause that you believed in: To have a better world for everyone," the soldier's father said.

"I hope the price that you and your many comrades have paid will be enough and that we will see a peaceful world flourishing from Afghanistan to Canada."

DARREN CALABRESE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The flag-draped casket of Trooper Marc Diab is carried out of Our Lady of Lebanon church following his funeral in Toronto yesterday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lobby group wants sales tax harmonization

GST A powerful business lobby added its voice to those calling on Ontario's Liberal government to merge the province's eight per cent sales tax with the five per cent goods and services tax.

The Canadian Council of Chief Executives says combining the sales taxes "would be the single most powerful measure" the province could take to encourage business investment and growth.

The council has written Premier Dalton McGuinty asking to have a clear commitment in the March 26 budget on tax harmonization.

McGuinty admits the business community seems unanimous in wanting him to merge the sales taxes, and has said it's an option he's looking at.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

U of T adopts phone warning system

That cellphone buzz you feel during history class could be a warning the campus is in lockdown.

The University of Toronto is the latest Canadian university to adopt a system that can send a warning straight to students' cellphones — by voice message or text — in an emergency.

Alert list

- About 5,200 students and staff have signed on to the free emergency alert list (https://alert.utoronto.ca/callme/), which U of T officials sent out to all 70,000 staff and students by email two weeks ago.

The popularity of the new alert systems was fuelled by the 2006 shootings at Virginia Tech, where a gunman killed 33 people over 2½ hours, a toll some say might have been lower had students been warned.

"It is scary to think about this kind of scenario, but the new technology gives us another way to keep people safe. And we know almost everyone carries a cellphone. It's definitely the tool to reach people quickly," said Erin Lemon, the U of T's director of faculty and staff communication.

But it can take time to sign students up. At Concordia University in Montreal, where a 1992 shooting spree left four professors dead, officials now simply get the cell number of every student when they register for school, rather than wait for them to sign up for the service.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

DEPOSIT The City of Toronto is sitting on $16.7 million of unreturned damage deposits received from infill builders. Under its own rules, after two years the city can keep it. Deposits of $2,000 per project are collected to cover the costs of roadway damage. While the city refunds the money, builders must apply to get it back in writing. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Arrests made in string of robberies

CAR THEFT The arrest of a man and a youth for a car theft spree in Vaughan and Markham has led police to several shipping containers full of stolen vehicles.

The men were arrested March 10, and police allege there had been multiple attempts to ship the containers overseas.

The vehicles were stolen after owners left them running in driveways, starting in late October.

Roger Shearer, 40, faces 12 counts of theft over $5,000, as well as conspiracy to commit theft. A 17-year-old Toronto male faces similar charges.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Nation divided over CBC

A new poll suggests Canadians are divided over whether the CBC should get more federal dollars to weather the tough economic times. The Canadian Press Harris-Decima survey found that half of respondents agreed Ottawa should provide the broadcaster with bridge financing, while 41 per cent opposed the idea. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

B.C. to ban exotic pets

The B.C. government has implemented new rules to ban dangerous pets like tigers, pythons and alligators to prevent harm to the public. Environment Minister Barry Penner says people shouldn't have to worry about being harmed by such animals in their communities. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'What is wrong with you?'

Four protesters arrested as George W. Bush speaks in Calgary

Former U.S. president George W. Bush was full of jokes as he spoke at a private luncheon yesterday, while outside several dozen police officers worked to keep 200 to 300 unruly protesters under control.

At least four demonstrators were arrested outside the downtown Calgary convention centre where Bush was appearing.

"There is a war criminal upstairs that has committed murder," screamed one man, who identified himself only as Splits the Sky. "If I try to get in there you will arrest me. What is wrong with you?

"I am going in there and make a citizen's arrest," he said, berating police officers and attempting to push past them. "Arrest George Bush. Arrest George Bush."

Some of those opposed to Bush's visit had already suggested before he arrived that he should be arrested as a war criminal because of alleged torture at military prisons in Iraq and Guantanamo Bay.

His speech to as many as 1,500 invited guests was one of his first public appearances since leaving office in January with a dismal approval rating and much of the blame for his country's collapsing economy. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Regrets

- The function was closed to the media, but one businessman in the audience said Bush implied he had some regrets, but he didn't give specifics.

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A protester dressed as a prisoner chants slogans outside the venue where former U.S. president George W. Bush was speaking to an invited audience of Calgary businessmen yesterday.

Chopper debate can wait: MacKay

CRASH It's not the right time to debate whether Newfoundland's two Cormorant helicopters should be moved from Gander to the capital city of St. John's, Defence Minister Peter MacKay said yesterday.

Some Newfoundlanders want the aircraft moved permanently to beef up search-and-rescue capabilities on the east coast, especially after last week's deadly crash of a privately-owned helicopter in the Atlantic.

But with a memorial service for the 17 crash victims set for today, MacKay said those sorts of issues would have to wait. "The discussion around response time, I think is more appropriately dealt with at a time after this memorial service and when we can respect the grieving families." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Black box

- The Transportation Safety Board says a data recorder and a cockpit voice recorder have been recovered from the wreckage of a helicopter that crashed in the North Atlantic last Thursday.

News in brief

DEATH The day after a mother and daughter died when their ATV plunged into an Ontario lake, a man was killed when a snowmobile driven by his partner crossed over open water Sunday near North Bay at Trout Lake. The woman was able to pull herself to safety, but Andrew Will couldn't be lifted out of the water by people who rushed to help. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mulroney wants hearing delay
Former prime minister Brian Mulroney is asking for a delay in public hearings into his business dealings with German-Canadian arms dealer Karlheinz Schreiber until April 14. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa orders tests on drinking water

Concerns raised over cancer-causing contaminants

The federal government is ordering tests of Canada's drinking water over concerns it may contain contaminants thought to raise the risk of cancer and other health problems.

Health Canada is seeking a contractor to determine if the contaminants — known as disinfection byproducts — flow from the country's taps.

Water treatment plants have long used disinfectants such as chlorine and ozone to eliminate bacteria from drinking water.

But in the 1970s, scientists discovered the disinfectants react with organic materials in untreated water to form the byproducts.

The contractor will collect samples from 60 water treatment plants and distribution systems across the country and report back to Health Canada. Those findings will shape federal guidelines that set out the maximum concentrations of contaminants allowed in drinking water. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Three Canadians die in crash

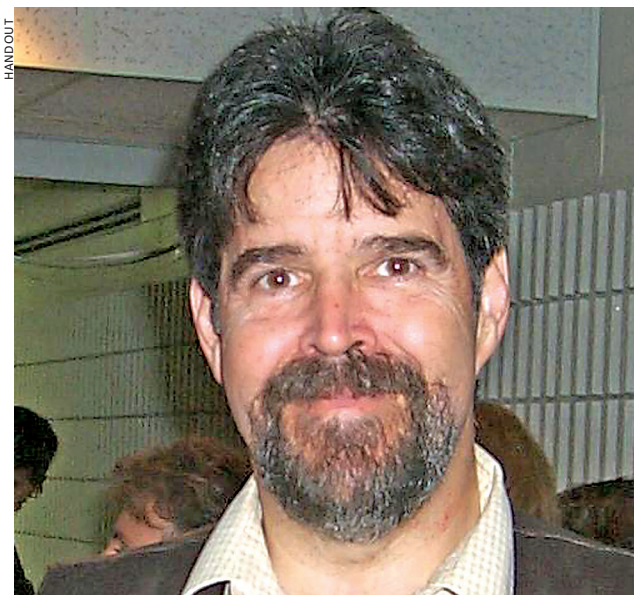
COLLISION Three Canadians were killed and four others injured in a head-on crash between a tour bus and a tractor trailer driven by an alleged drunk driver that left twisted metal and smashed glass littering a highway in rural northern Mexico, family and officials said yesterday.

Among the dead was a Quebec man living his dream by taking a six-month working holiday, as well as a woman from Caledonia, Ont., and another woman from Vancouver.

Robert Lacas, 56, of Quebec City, was killed in Monday's crash, while his wife Line Carrier, 55, was among the injured Canadians.

Reached in Hospital Magisterio in Saltillo, in Coahuila state, Carrier declined to talk about the accident and said she was being attended to by several nurses.

HANDOUT



Robert Lacas, of Quebec City, was among three Canadians killed in a horrific bus crash in Mexico while his wife was among four Canadians hurt, a relative said.

"I have no recollection about what happened," she said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cuts for RCMP watchdog

POLICE The Harper government is slashing nearly half the funding for the watchdog agency that monitors the RCMP and recently helped pressure the national police to craft a new policy on Tasers.

The RCMP Public Complaints Commission is warning that a potential 40 per cent plunge in its budget would force it to shut down the division that spurred the Taser review.

The commission says the cutback would jeopardize research about how police deal with mentally ill suspects, and how police forces conduct investigations into their own officers.

Those projects are being overseen by a policy division that was created in 2007 with a $3.5-million supplementary fund that now appears to have been axed. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Previous money

- The cutback from the commission's previous annual budget of $8.7 million is outlined in the main estimates tabled recently by the federal Treasury Board.

News in brief

SCIENCE Prime Minister Stephen Harper's office is playing down suggestions that the federal science minister may not believe in the science of evolution. Harper spokesman Kory Teneycke said creationism is not part of the federal science agenda.

BUDGET The New Brunswick government is axing jobs and programs, but deepening the debt, with a budget it claims will guide the province through the economic storm. The $7.8-billion package for 2009-10, released yesterday, adds close to a billion dollars to the province's net debt, reaching $8.3 billion by 2010. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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U.S. air force nurse charged in patients' deaths
A U.S. air force nurse has been charged with administering lethal doses of medication to three terminally ill patients in his care at a Texas military hospital. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Pope in Africa

Pope Benedict said on his way to Africa yesterday that condoms were not the answer in the continent's fight against HIV. Benedict arrived in Yaounde, Cameroon's capital to a crowd of flag-waving faithful. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada pays Afghan wages

Canada will spend $21 million in the next two years to pay the salaries of Afghan police officers and prison guards.

The announcement was made yesterday by Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon and International Trade Minister Stockwell Day, the chair of the cabinet committee on Afghanistan, at the end of a two-day visit to Kandahar and Kabul.

"Canada is committed to helping Afghans assume more and more of their own security." Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon

"The Afghan National Police is critical in helping to promote law and order in Afghanistan and Canada is committed to helping Afghans assume more and more of their own security," Cannon told reporters.

The cash, which will be administered by a United Nations law and order trust fund, will cover the salaries of 3,000 police officers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE CANADIAN PRESS

International Trade Minister Stockwell Day, left, and Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon visit a Canadian-built police sub-station yesterday in Kandahar.

JEROME DELAY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Supporters cheer opposition leader Andry Rajoelina yesterday as he parades through the narrow streets of Antananarivo, Madagascar, after Madagascar's president yielded power.

Madagascar president steps down

STRUGGLE Madagascar's president announced yesterday that he was dissolving the government and handing power to the military after weeks of struggle with the leader of the opposition.

The opposition head, Andry Rajoelina, paraded through the streets of the capital surrounded by soldiers before entering a presidential palace seized by troops Monday night.

An aide said after President Marc Ravalomanana's speech that a council of high-ranking, veteran military officers would hold elections within two years.

On Monday, Rajoelina called on the army to arrest the president, but soldiers refused. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Embassy tweets

- U.S. diplomats "tweeted" down rumours, using the microblogging network to deny that Madagascar's ousted president had sought refuge inside the U.S. Embassy.

Daughter confronts incest father

TRIAL The woman who bore seven children through incest and was allegedly locked in a squalid dungeon for 24 years confronted her father yesterday in a videotape shown in court — testimony that could send him to prison for life. Josef Fritzl, 73, has pleaded guilty to incest and false imprisonment, but is contesting negligent homicide and enslavement charges against him and has acknowledged only partial guilt on rape and coercion charges.

Yesterday, jurors in Austria viewed videotaped testimony from Fritzl's daughter Elisabeth. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shooter's parents write open letter

GERMANY The parents of a German teenager who killed 15 people in a shooting rampage last Wednesday said yesterday the deaths left them agonizing over how they failed to "notice his despair and hatred."

Expressing their shock and sorrow, Tim Kretschmer's parents and sister said in an open letter to the victims: "We keep asking ourselves over and over again how this could happen? Why we didn't notice his despair and hatred?" THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former radical freed from prison

FUGITIVE Sara Jane Olson, the 1970s radical who assumed a new identity as a Minnesota housewife while spending a quarter-century as a fugitive, was released from prison yesterday.

Olson, 62, served seven years — half her sentence — after pleading guilty to placing pipe bombs under Los Angeles police cars and participating in the deadly robbery of a bank in a Sacramento suburb while she was a member of the Symbionese Liberation Army. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

CHIMP The family of a woman mauled by a chimpanzee has filed a lawsuit seeking $50 million US in damages against Sandra Herold, the primate's owner. Charla Nash remains in critical condition. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Pack of dogs maul tourist
A German tourist was mauled yesterday in the southern Sicily town of Scicli by a pack of dogs that have already killed a 10-year-old boy, authorities said. The pack belongs to a resident who kept dozens of dogs in unsanitary conditions and with little food. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PETER MORRISON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Students watch riot police in Belfast, Northern Ireland, yesterday after students celebrating St. Patrick's Day clashed with police.

Patients dying in war zone

A lack of medical supplies has led to the needless deaths of hundreds of hospital patients in parts of northern Sri Lanka ravaged by civil war, the regions' top health officials said.

In a letter to the Health Ministry, officials from two northern Sri Lankan regions said just five per cent of the needed drugs and dressings were received.

The letter was signed by the health officers of Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu. Kilinochchi was the headquarters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam until it was overrun by government troops in January.

The letter said more than 500 patients died since January and that thousands of others may have died outside of hospitals.

On Tuesday, a further 23 patients died out of 108 wounded civilians taken to a makeshift hospital in the northeast, said a hospital administrative officer.

Human Rights Minister Mahinda Samarasinghe said any letter coming out of the rebel territory is "suspicious and subject to verification."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tamil Tigers' last stand?

- The last remaining remnants of the Tamil Tigers are fighting in Mullaitivu to hold on to a shrinking swath of land — estimated at 35 square kilometres — on the northeast coast.

Half-million celebrate in Dublin

HOLIDAY As many as half a million Irish natives, immigrants and tourists jammed into Dublin's city centre yesterday to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, a boisterous national holiday that has been darkened this year by recession and violence.

"To hell with the recession! Let's dance!" shouted a leprechaun-dressed street entertainer in the vanguard of the parade. The 10-deep crowd roared with laughter at his lewd jig — and, for an earsplitting hour featuring bands from India to Indiana, forgot its troubles.

Sean Cardinal Brady and other church leaders called for communities, in both the Irish Republic and the British territory of Northern Ireland, to isolate the gunmen who are spreading fear and dread. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Troubles

- Ireland faces its sternest challenges in decades. Unemployment has soared above 10 per cent, the government is increasing taxes and cutting spending to combat the worst budget deficit in Europe, and people are worried by rising emigration and renewed bloodshed.

News in brief

MIDEAST Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert says Israel would not agree to add names to the list of prisoners it was prepared to release to win freedom for Sgt. Gilad Schalit, the 22-year-old soldier, held nearly three years in Gaza.

SUDAN Arab League chief Amr Moussa says the group will not carry out a request by the International Criminal Court to arrest Sudan's president on charges of war crimes in Darfur. Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir has indicated he will attend an Arab summit in Qatar later this month.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment

Dumb as a dinosaur

TheWestView

Paul Sullivan

metronews.ca/thewestview

Meet Hesperonychus elizabethae, the smallest dinosaur ever to stalk the Jurassic jungles of North America.

Hesperonychus lived 75 million years ago, on a hunch. weighed about two kilograms and stood about 50 centimetres tall. He was the equivalent of a prehistoric chicken, complete with feathers.

Only much nastier.

Hesperonychus was a tiny, perfect relative of Velociraptor, the ferocious thug featured in the Jurassic Park movies, and came equipped with its cousin's sharp claws and teeth. You wouldn't want to run into a flock of these dino-mites.

Hesperonychus was discovered by Canadian Nick Longrich, a paleontologist at the University of Calgary, who did his fieldwork by rummaging around in a drawer.

Apparently the little dino's bones had been dug up in 1982, but no one took a close look at the little hip bone in question until 2007 when Longrich acted

Previous paleontologists had taken a pass, believing it to be from a juvenile of a known species, but Longrich noted discoveries of small dinos in Asia, and wondered why no one had found their North American relatives.

Like, um, a dog with a bone, he deduced that it represented a whole new species.

A very Canadian discovery, this.

A four-pound prehistoric chicken discovered at the back of a drawer in a university lab.

What's so important about this fierce, but fortunately extinct little beast?

Well, it begins to paint a more complete picture of the Jurassic ecology; it tells us more about the ancestors of our feathered friends, and it reminds us that big things come in small packages.

Longrich himself sees an object lesson — Hesperonychus avoided detection, even if it was right under our noses all this time, because of something he calls "collecting bias" — paleontologists are human too, so they spend most of their time looking for T-Rex and have a tendency to ignore such tiny treasures.

It takes a Canadian sensibility, I guess, to think small enough.

I hate to end this on a depressing note, but of course this discovery has prompted the people who learned their natural history studying the Flintstones, to state with conviction that Hesperonychus could not be 75 million years old, because as any idiot knows God created the world only 6013 years ago, and it took him seven days to do it.

It's hard to believe that such stupidity and lucidity can co-exist at the same time in the same nation, but that's evolution for you.

I remain confident that natural selection will take care of the former, and advance the latter.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Online Chatter

Is this old-fashioned approach still valid?

Re: Milk-bag mats for Third World countries (March 15)

We are uncertain as to the real environmental and ethical costs of this venture.

Recycling is definitely important, however sending our recycled materials thousands of kilometres overseas does nothing to help sustain the environment, and milk-bag mats simply give us a reason to continue to over-consume plastic.

From an ethical point of view, is it right to send our waste that we don't want, to others?

Plastic bags do exist in Third World countries, but proper mats and teddy bears are scarce.

This seems to be a fairly ignorant attempt to solve a problem without fully understanding the real situation. **Comments by username: huh**

twitter

Re: George W. Bush's visit to Canada

I think people are hoping something will happen to Bush while he's here, but Calgary's too sleepy to actually try anything.

Tweet by ideagrrrl @metrocalgary

Re: George W. Bush's visit to Canada

It was bad form to only allow a few elites to hear the talk. All of Calgary could have benefited from the discussion.

Tweet by muunkky @metrocalgary

Metro does not verify the identities of online commentators. Comments may be edited for space.
To comment on these and other stories, log onto metronews.ca.
Follow Metro on Twitter @metrotoronto

Word on the street: What outdoor activity do you most look forward to once the weather warms up?

Paul Grossi
age 25, Toronto
A: Drinking sangrias on a patio at 11:30 a.m. and then going to work and pretending I didn't.

John Crouch
age 22, Toronto
A: Going to the pool at the Four Seasons, and go-karting at The Docks.

Sarah Terry
age 25, Toronto
A: Roasting marshmallows.

Judy Hines
age 22, Port Hawkesbury, NS
A: Outdoor soccer. We play until it's dark and cap it off with some beer.

Andrew Black
age 22, Halifax, NS
A: I'm looking forward to hiking and camping again. I just don't like pavement.

Kelly Soucie
age 22, Hull, QB
A: Being able to walk outside or rollerblade. I like the fresh air and finally being outdoors again.

Metro Online Poll Results

63% SAID YES	Should CBC Radio run ads to fend off funding woes? *Weigh in on today's question at metronews.ca*	37% SAID NO

It's your turn to tell others what you think. Email your thoughts and opinions to: torontoletters@metronews.ca
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

IRS softens stand for some Madoff investors
The Internal Revenue Service is allowing tax relief and refunds for some investors who paid taxes on earnings from their investments with Bernard Madoff that turned out to be nonexistent. Investors have said they should be entitled to refunds of the taxes they paid. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Lawmakers look at taxing U.S. bonuses

BAILOUT An outraged U.S. Congress threatened yesterday to impose new taxes to recoup at least some of the $165 million US in bonuses that insurance giant AIG awarded to executives and traders after getting billions in federal bailout money.

IRS
- The Internal Revenue Service withholds 25 per cent from bonuses less than $1 million and 35 per cent for bonuses more than $1 million.

In the House, Reps. Steve Israel and Tim Ryan introduced a bill that would tax at 100 per cent bonuses above $100,000 US paid by companies that have received federal bailout money.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Signs show economy may be near bottom

Stock markets moved up again yesterday, American housing starts surged by 22 per cent last month, American wholesale sales edged higher and Canadian factory shipments surprised on the up side.

CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
A worker staples a home wrap on a new home under construction this week in West Des Moines, Iowa.

The encouraging developments hardly presage a return to good times — U.S. housing starts are still half what they were and the Canadian manufacturing numbers for January were awful at minus 5.4 per cent, just not as awful as predicted.

Bank of Montreal's chief economist Sherry Cooper said not all economic news is now uniformly grim.

"I'm not suggesting the recession is over," she cautioned. "I'm just suggesting that we're beginning to get some evidence that some sectors appear to have bottomed."

Paul Ferley, assistant chief economist with the Royal Bank, says stock markets may be responding to retail sales improvements, which may be due mostly to consumers having more money to spend because of lower gas prices. The dominoes could reverse quickly, he warned.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto stocks surge for 6th day

MARKETS The Toronto stock market roared ahead as investors continued to snap up financial stocks while the energy sector also made a big contribution as crude approached the $50 US a barrel level.

The S&P/TSX closed up 172.89 points to 8,559.6, adding up to a 13 per cent surge over six days. The financial sector is up 28 per cent. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Bombardier jet deliveries to fall?

FORECAST Aerospace analyst Cameron Doerksen of Versant Partners expects Bombardier Inc. will once again lower its forecast for business jet deliveries to 25 per cent this year, compared to Bombardier's earlier forecast of a 10 per cent drop.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

In brief

MINING Sulliden Exploration said it had a loss of $135,571 for the quarter ended Jan. 31 compared to a year-earlier loss of $420,837. The Toronto-based mining exploration company is focused on the development of the Shahuindo gold and silver project in northern Peru. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Good news for Phillies ace

Phillies pitching ace Cole Hamels will return to camp after a team physician found no damage in his sore left elbow. Last season's World Series MVP received an injection to relieve inflammation and should be cleared to throw by Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Brodeur passes Roy

Martin Brodeur stands alone among NHL goaltenders. Brodeur posted his 552nd win last night and passed childhood idol and Hall of Famer Patrick Roy for the most career victories in league history. He made 30 saves in the New Jersey Devils' 3-2 victory over the Chicago Blackhawks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

New faces on Canadian women's hockey team

HOCKEY Change on Canada's women's hockey team accelerated with the announcement of its world championship roster and list of Olympic invitees yesterday in Calgary.

The inclusion of six players under the age of 20 and the absence of Olympic veterans Cheryl Pounder and Katie Weatherston indicates the long careers players could once expect on the national team are a thing of the past.

"You don't stay on the national team for 10 years like it once was," captain Hayley Wickenheiser said. "Especially being an older, veteran player, young players coming up are always pushing.

"You don't stay on the national team for 10 years like it once was."
Hayley Wickenheiser

"If you have a bad season or a few bad camps, that could be the end for you."

Head coach Melody Davidson announced the 21 players that will attempt to reclaim the world championship April 4-12 in Hameenlinna, Finland. She also named an additional five who will join them in trying out for the 2010 Olympic team later this year.

While Davidson retained 15 players from the 2006 Olympic team such as Wickenheiser, Jennifer Botterill, Caroline Ouellette and Jayna Hefford, a dozen of them are relative newcomers.

Forwards Haley Irwin, 20, and Marie-Philip-Poulin, 17, will play in their first world championship and are joined by 19-year-old Rebecca Johnston, who made her debut last year. Jennifer Wakefield, 19, has been named to the team as an alternate forward.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Leafs rally for win

NHL RESULT

Lightning 3 Maple Leafs 4

The Maple Leafs were something last night they aren't too often at home: Crowd pleasers.

A St. Pete Times Forum thick with loud and willing-to-party Leaf fans among the crowd of 18,793 had plenty to get boisterous about in Toronto's 4-3 shootout win over the Tampa Bay Lightning.

John Mitchell, who notched Toronto's first goal in a comeback from a 3-0 disadvantage, scored as the sixth sniper in the shootout.

Jeff Hamilton, who scored Toronto's tying goal, counted, as did Vincent Lecavalier, in the first round. Steven Stamkos hit the post with a slapshot, then Martin St. Louis hit the iron on a spinaround move. The next four shooters missed until Mitchell clicked.

REINHOLD MATAY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toronto Maple Leaf Nikolai Kulemin fights for the puck with Tampa Bay Lightning blue-liner Noah Welch last night.

Lecavalier, Stamkos and Matt Pettinger put the Leafs up 3-0 before Mitchell, converting an industrious set-up by Jason Blake in the final minute of the second period, lifted the Leafs to within 3-1.

The Lightning had been looking to win all four games in a season against the Leafs for the first time in the franchise's history.

Blake, who had a creative offensive game, brought the Leafs to within a goal early in the third period with his 24th on a nifty burst in from the blue-line and a backhander between Karri Ramo's legs.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bucks forward lands in Twitter trouble

NBA It might be the next big thing in online social networking, but Milwaukee Bucks coach Scott Skiles isn't a big fan of Twitter.

At least not when one of his players is posting from the Bucks' locker-room during halftime of a critical game.

Bucks forward Charlie Villanueva got a talking-to from Skiles after the coach learned Villanueva posted a message to his Twitter feed — a "tweet" — from his mobile phone during halftime of Sunday's home victory over Boston.

"We made a point to Charlie and the team that it's nothing we ever want to happen again," Skiles said after practice yesterday.

Popular with athletes

- Twitter is rising in popularity among athletes, politicians and celebrities. NBA star Shaquille O'Neal (screen name: "THE-REAL-SHAQ") occasionally uses the site to give away tickets to fans. Cyclist Lance Armstrong ("lancearmstrong") provides updates on the frequency of his anti-doping tests and posts pictures from his training rides.

"You know, (we) don't want to blow it out of proportion. But anything that gives the impression that we're not serious and focused at all times is not the correct way we want to go about our business."

Using the screen name "CV31" — Villanueva's initials and jersey number — Villanueva posted the following message during halftime Sunday:

"In da locker-room, snuck to post my twitt. We're playing the Celtics, tie ball game at da half. Coach wants more toughness. I gotta step up."

And he did. Villanueva finished with a team-high 19 points as the Bucks, who are trying desperately to hold on to the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference, beat the Celtics 86-77.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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York establishes task force to address student environment
York University president Mamdouh Shoukri has appointed a Task Force on Student Life, Learning and Community to review concerns about the student environment on campus. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Musical mutiny

Humber College students have organized a Musical Mutiny in support of War Child Canada. Musical Mutiny is a benefit battle of the bands taking place at the Horseshoe Tavern (370 Queen St. W.) on March 25 at 9 p.m. All proceeds will go to support War Child Canada. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Looking for a culinary career?

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

The Pacific Institute of Culinary Arts offers full-time, six-month programs in either culinary arts or baking and pastry making with a strong hands-on approach.

Always had a way with food but never thought of making a career out of it? It might be time to trade in your suit and tie for the chef's jacket and hat.

When one career ends, it's only natural to think that your next one should be even more enticing than the last and a career in the culinary arts can be a dream come true for people who love food.

Tim Ellison, manager of special programs at the Pacific Institute of Culinary Arts in Vancouver, says more closet kitchenophiles than ever are realizing their talents and passion for food can lead to a very rewarding and successful career in the hospitality industry.

"We're seeing students who are older and either their industries are sunset industries or they're feeling unrewarded in their work. People are interested in a career change — they're tired of just plugging away or putting in time for a paycheque," Ellison said.

> **"Virtually 100 per cent of our grads are absorbed into the industry."**
> Tim Ellison

The Pacific Institute offers full-time, six-month programs in either culinary arts or baking and pastry making with a strong hands-on approach: For the first three months students learn in-class skills while the final three are spent exclusively working in the on-site restaurant creating food for actual paying customers. Students can apply that on-the-job time as credit against an apprenticeship program with a real employer. With the Olympics set to arrive in 2010, businesses have been scrambling to hire as many culinary grads as they can find.

"Virtually 100 per cent of our graduates are absorbed into the industry almost immediately. Head chefs come down with their hiring directors and poach students directly from class," Ellison said.

With class sizes capped at about 15 students, the focus is on giving students as much one-on-one time with the instructor and opportunity to cook as possible.

"You can't hide and you can't get lost. At some schools you cook one steak in one sitting — here you'll cook 40. It's about giving students the opportunity to practise through habit to develop experience," Ellison said.

The school also offers a weekend course in restaurant operations management and Ellison says enrolment in the program has ballooned recently with business people, many recently laid off or planning to leave their jobs and deciding to finally trade their electronic Blackberries for real ones, fresh from the field.

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George Brown shines spotlight on health

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

No matter what state the economy is in, people need to stay healthy. Making a career in health care always a viable choice.

Lori Cranson, an associate dean at George Brown College in Toronto, says the focus of modern health care has shifted from solely caring for the sick to a much more holistic approach to total health and well-being.

"All of our health professions focus on wellness. It's about helping people be mobile and well and helping them lead more active lives," Cranson said.

The result, Cranson says, is that jobs in the health industry are seldom out of demand, making a career in health a popular option.

Cranson says a wealth of career options exist in health care far beyond the stereotype of the field being filling mostly with doctors and nurses. Among the growing number of health-related jobs, personal trainers, physical education teachers, sports therapists and rehabilitation specialists all fall under the category of health workers too.

"I think people are unaware of the range of careers available in the health profession," Cranson said.

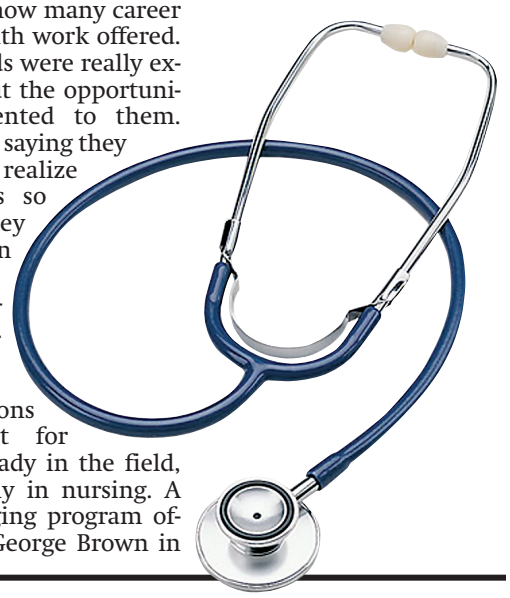
At a recent information session for high-school students, George Brown College in Toronto gave Grade 11 and 12 students a hands-on look at careers in health.

More than 300 kids from 28 different schools across three Toronto-area school boards learned how to use a stethoscope, practised taking blood pressure on a programmable mannequin, learned to spell words in American Sign Language and even got a chance to try walking with a prosthetic leg.

Cathy Rudisi, department head of co-operative education at St. Francis Xavier Secondary School in Mississauga, says the hands-on approach worked as her students had a blast and were surprised at how many career paths health work offered.

"The kids were really excited about the opportunities presented to them. They were saying they didn't realize there was so much they could do in health care," Rudisi said.

Career advancement options also exist for those already in the field, particularly in nursing. A new bridging program offered by George Brown in tandem with Trent University lets Registered Practical Nurses (R.P.N.) with a two-year diploma upgrade their qualifications to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. Completion of the program lets nurses advance to become Registered Nurses (R.N.).



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Prof lectures on failings of justice

BRIAN TOWIE
Metro Canada

Darryl Davies knows that in the world of law and order, crime is just good for business.

The Ottawa-based criminologist and professor in Carleton University's department of sociology and anthropology will impart his wisdom on crime and punishment in his lecture Explaining Crime, set to air Saturday on TVO's Big Ideas as part of its Ontario's Best Lecturer contest.

A veteran of the criminal justice system in Canada for more than 20 years in a number of roles — including parole officer, a policy analyst in the Ministry of the Solicitor General and criminologist with the Canadian Criminal Justice Association — Davies will talk on how the system can undergo some much-needed improvements, how politicians use the issue of crime as a vote-grabber and how criminal activity ultimately benefits job creation.

"Our criminal justice system, to a large extent, targets the wrong populations," he said. "It gives the impression that the bulk of offending in terms of cost is most serious in street crime. We focus on the most vulnerable. We focus on minorities. The most adverse effects come from credit card fraud, computer crime and insurance fraud and we do very little in those areas. We also don't target big companies who pollute our waters and poison people. I try to address that with my students."

More cops on the street won't curtail crime, though opportunistic politicians would have you think differently, Davies argues. He says an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, and programs that could stop crime before it starts go shamefully under-used.

"We make decisions with respect to crime based on ideology, not empirical evidence," he said. "Politicians, generally, will pander to a 'get-tough' approach. They target crime in their speeches and give the impression that increasing the number of police officers will improve public safety, which is nonsense. We have intervention strategies that work in the very earliest years of a child's upbringing and development to prevent crime, and we're very poor at using them. The politicians never get behind them because they're not vote-catchers."

Moreover, Davies says little effort is made to stamp out crime entirely, one reason being it keeps those in the justice system employed.

"I can talk from practical experience," he said. "The elimination of crime is a non-existent proposition. The whole system feeds off of it. Everyone in it is employed by it, including me. The former prime minister of Canada, John Diefenbaker, when he was a sitting member in the House of Commons representing Prince Albert, responded to a discussion around closing Saskatchewan Penitentiary by standing up and basically saying, 'You'll do that over my dead body,' because prisons create employment, and not just for two weeks, they do it forever."

Missed it?

• Just because you can bend like a rubber band doesn't necessarily mean you're healthy.

At least Doug Richards doesn't think so. The professor of physical education and health at the University of Toronto delved into the reasons why during his lecture Stretching: The Truth (Clever name, isn't it?), which aired on Sunday, March 8 as part of TVO's Ontario's Best Lecturer Series on its Big Ideas program.

"I'm very honoured to have been named one of the best lecturers," Richards said. "This is a fine group I've found myself in. I don't expect to win though, not at all."

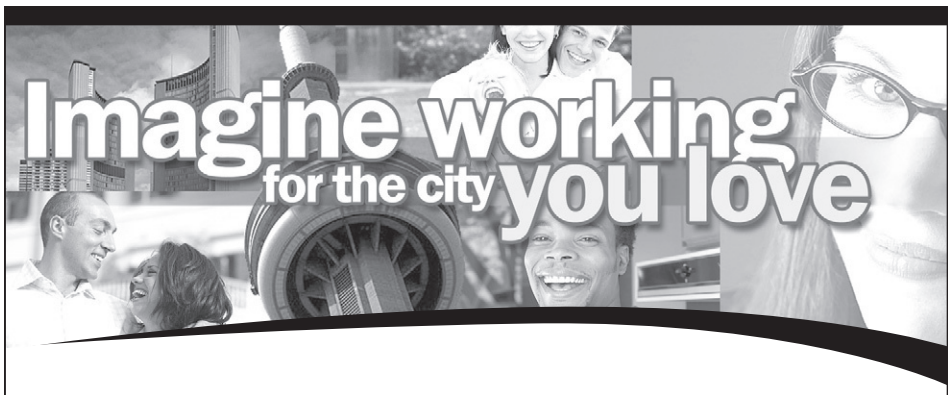
Richards says he's out to dispel some of the common knowledge about muscle stretching. It may not be the catch-all solution that your gym buddy might tell you it is.

"People can be very misinformed. There are a lot of myths about stretching your muscles," he said. "Is it the cure for what ails you? Certainly flexibility is good for you and an amount of it is necessary depending on what you do for a living. But will it address little health problems you might have? No."

Stretching before a workout isn't the best thing to do either he said.

"Stretching is not the answer to injury prevention either," he said. "What reduces injuries are warm ups. You start off slow, then you increase your pace, that's much better for prevention."

–BRIAN TOWIE



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St. Francis Xavier gets a facelift

St. Francis Xavier University is renovating its Coady International Institute, which trains foreign students to be leaders in their own communities. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Privacy is a delicate balance

WorkplaceLaw

Daniel Lublin

Metronews.ca/workplacelaw

What happens when employee privacy rights collide with an employer's right to monitor its workplace? As the London, Ont., offices of Cornerstone Properties recently discovered, an employer must tread carefully.

After working for seven years without incident, Coleen Colwell trusted her employer. She had been promoted to manager and was given her own private office at the company's workplace. However, her trust was dashed when she suddenly learned that a secret surveillance camera had been installed in the ceiling of her office.

Colwell immediately had the camera removed. In the course of investigating how it got there, she learned that it had been surreptitiously installed by her boss, Trent Krauel. He explained to Colwell that it was the only secret camera in the office and had been put there after he suspected that some of the maintenance staff had been stealing from the store. Krauel told Colwell that he didn't think that she was involved in the thefts and that the camera had not been working properly anyway. He was sorry that Colwell was upset but did not think there was a need to offer an apology. Instead, he felt he had the "right" to secretly install the camera.

Colwell didn't believe Krauel, and his unremorseful explanation made matters worse. She knew that no thefts had ever taken place from her office and questioned why the camera's presence had been kept from her, since she was the individual responsible for the maintenance staff, not Krauel.

Colwell told the company that she treated the incident as a breach of contract and would be leaving, but only with a severance package. When Cornerstone refused to negotiate, Colwell sued for constructive dismissal.

At trial, Colwell argued that the secret installation of the camera, Krauel's failure to apologize, and his declaration that it was his "right" to put the camera in her office without telling her first, all amounted to her constructive termination. Without even a credible explanation for his actions, she had no reasonable option but to leave, Colwell argued.

Cornerstone saw it differently, arguing that where there is a reasonable apprehension of employee abuse, a surveillance camera may be justified. Krauel's and Cornerstone's position didn't impress the judge, who found that a secret camera being installed in an employee's office without her knowledge, coupled with a "preposterous" explanation, amounted to Colwell's constructive dismissal. Without being able to trust her employer, she was entitled to severance.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focusing on the law of dismissal; dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com.

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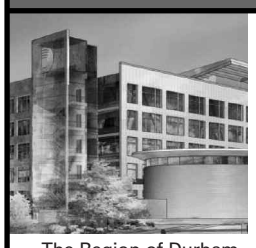

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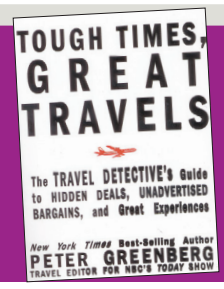
Sweden's famous Ice Hotel says it will start including tickets for Virgin Galactic's space trips in its offerings to tourists. The trips, from the nearby city of Kiruna, will start in 2012 if tests with Virgin's spaceships go according to plan. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Travel



Armchair travel

If you think a vacation is out of reach this year, sit down and have a look at Tough Times, Great Travels (Rodale, $10.95) by Peter Greenberg. The author, who is the travel editor of NBC's Today Show, is confident that if you know the ins and outs of scoring travel deals, you'll be able to hit the beach even in the leanest of times. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Getting hitched in the birthplace of romance

House of Juliet to become wedding venue

There may be no better setting for the words, "'Til death do us part." The House of Juliet — where, legend has it, Romeo wooed the young maiden under her balcony — will soon be used as a venue for weddings, said city officials in Verona, Italy.

CALUDIO MARTINELLI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tourists take pictures of Juliet's balcony, seen at left, in Verona, northern Italy. The House of Juliet — where, legend has it, Romeo wooed the young maiden under her balcony — will soon be used as a venue for weddings.

The idea is part of a campaign by Verona, where William Shakespeare set his tale of star-crossed lovers, to foster its image as a romantic city.

"Verona is known worldwide as the city of love," said Daniele Polato, the city official who made the proposal. "We have inherited this splendid reputation and we want to promote it."

But even romanticism comes at a price: The tab for getting married at the House of Juliet ranges from about $990 for Verona residents to about $1,600 for non-EU-citizens not living in the northeastern Italian city. The cost difference is due to the larger amount of documentation needed for non-residents, officials said.

Polato says the money will be used to fund the initiative, including paying for city hall staff, extending hours, and processing documents. Eventually the city wants to expand the campaign into a full tourist "wedding package" that will include everything from hotel accommodation to flower arrangements.

Nonreligious weddings at the House of Juliet, as well as in another historical building in the city center that was previously unavailable, will be possible starting next month, when the last bureaucratic hurdle is cleared, Polato said. The weddings can either take place inside the house or in the courtyard right below the famous balcony.

The 14th-century Casa di Giulietta, or House of Juliet, is one of the top tourist spots in a city that draws about 1.2 million people annually. The building belonged to the Cappello family, traditionally identified with the Capulets, leading to the folklore that Shakespeare's fictional character may have lived there. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

- tourism.verona.it
- julietclub.com

Destination weddings: Right for a recession?

Coming up with a wedding budget — and managing to stick with it — can be a stress-fraught exercise in the best of times. So it's hardly an enviable task in a year when society's mantra has switched from spend to save.

But that doesn't mean couples need to shelve their dreams of getting married at sunrise on a perfect beach in the tropics. In fact, one of the most common arguments in favour of choosing a destination wedding — which is that going away to get married can actually cost far less than a celebration on your home turf — still seems to hold true.

A recent survey released by Bridal Guide magazine found that "almost 30 per cent of readers are planning or considering a destination wedding ... and the median number of invited guests per wedding is 43, with 25 per cent of respon-

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No Spock for you
The town of Vulcan, Alta., which markets itself to tourists as the birthplace of Mr. Spock, will not host the world premiere of the film Star Trek XI as it had hoped. Town officials were told timing and logistics issues made the event impossible. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Puerto Rico's unspoiled west coast

Surfers, small towns and tranquil beaches are area's hallmarks

So many beautiful beaches around the world are ringed by high-rise condos, trinket shops and traffic, with the same fast-food and hotel chains as all the other beaches.

But Puerto Rico's west coast is different. It has sand, sun and sea but, so far, it's avoided the overdevelopment that can turn beach towns into megaresorts. Instead, you'll find friendly cafes, surf shops, small towns and tranquil beaches on the byways.

Rincon, on Puerto Rico's northwest coast, has the laidback vibe of a surfer town. But the chirping of the coquis — tiny tree frogs that sing dusk to dawn — leaves no doubt that you are in Puerto Rico. Peter Aviles, who grew up in Rincon and is the editor of Rincon-PR.com, says surfers put Rincon on the map, when teams from around the world showed up to compete in the 1968 World Surfing Championship. Rincon is located on a peninsula, with waves from the Atlantic on the north side of the point, and calmer Caribbean seas on the southern side.

BETH HARPAZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
A view of Playa Sucia, a beach in Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico, with Los Morrillos lighthouse.

Aviles said there was only one hotel in town when the surfers arrived, Villa Cofresi, and when that filled up, locals started renting out rooms. "That was the beginning of the lodging industry here," he said.

Today Rincon has about 1,000 rooms among various hotels, B&Bs and rentals, but it retains a small-town feel, with a year-round population of about 15,000 and zoning that prohibits buildings over four stories on the beach, Aviles said.

Between November and February, surfers come for the big waves at beaches like Tres Palmas and Domes Beach, and North Americans come to escape the cold. In March and April, migrating humpbacks make whale-watching a major attraction. From May through August, it's a summer beach town.

Villa Cofresi, which has just 69 rooms, is one of Rincon's three largest hotels — further evidence of the town's small scale. Cofresi is by no means fancy, but it offers a beautiful beachfront location and comfortable rooms.

At night, the hotel bar and restaurant pulse with music, the click-clack of balls on the pool tables, and a fun party vibe, but at the breakfast buffet and on the beach, you see mostly couples and families, many of whom return each year.

Next to Cofresi, Coconut Water Sports rents paddleboards for $15 US an hour. These are similar to surfboards but you row with a long oar while standing on them. The winding roads around Rincon lead to various public beaches where you can try parasailing, rent snorkelling gear or go surfing. At a friendly little surf shop just up the road from Maria's Beach, you can arrange for surfing lessons.

Driving down the west coast from Rincon to Cabo Rojo in search of Bahia Sucia, you may think you're lost, but then the paved road gives way to a bumpy dirt road. Then, suddenly, you see the beach, a stunning crescent with turquoise water and white sand as fine as sugar.

The name Bahia Sucia translates as "dirty bay," and there are various explanations for it — a long-ago oil spill, the dirt road, seaweed — but the place appeared pristine.

"You encounter this dirt road, where you practically need a Jeep," said Osvaldo Caban, a New Yorker with Puerto Rican roots who first went to Cabo Rojo as a child with his dad, but now takes his own kids there. "You drive through this swamp area and then, all of a sudden, over this mountain, it's like paradise! That's why the name 'dirty beach' is so crazy." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Getting there

Rincon: On Puerto Rico's northwest coast. Airport in Aguadilla is an hour's drive from Rincon; San Juan is three hours; rincon-pr.com.
Villa Cofresi Hotel: villacofresi.com, rooms start at $125 US.
Cabo Rojo: On Puerto Rico's southwest coast; caborojopr.com. Beach at Bahia Sucia is on Route 301 (partly unpaved) in the wildlife refuge. No rest rooms or concessions on the beach. Bahia Salinas Beach Resort & Spa is nearby on 301; bahiasalinas.com.
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B.C. bird fest
The Columbia River wetlands in southeast B.C. are breeding grounds for over 265 bird species, and it's the setting for the Wings Over the Rockies Bird Festival, with canoe trips and guided walks. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ontario outings

Take a hike with Rover
• Both you and your pooch are probably suffering cabin fever, and could use some thawing out on a Dog Lovers Hike. Join up with fellow dog owners for some leash-free roaming at an Ontario provincial park, located within an hour's drive of the GTA. All hikes include a guided tour of the park, snacks and a buffet lunch. Hikes are held Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and cost $55, including dog. For details, visit dogpaddlingadventures.com.

Quintessentially Canadian: Buckhorn Maplefest
• Maple season is almost upon us — welcome in spring with Maplefest. Take a hay ride, go on a sugar bush walking tour, tap a tree, have a pancake breakfast and, of course, taste some toffee in the the sugar shack at McLean Berry Farm, located in Buckhorn, Ont., in the Kawartha Lakes. The fest starts March 21, and costs $4 for all. For more information, call 705-657-2134 or visit mcleanberryfarm.com.

Spend some quality time with your canine pal in the woods.

Diefenbunker seeks public donations

FUNDING The Diefenbunker, Canada's Cold War Museum, is seeking donations from the public to finance renovations that will allow more people to visit the site.

Currently only 60 people are allowed in at any time, and the museum says it can't meet the demand from people wanting to see the once-secret bunker.

"It will take $1.5 million to retrofit the bunker so we can accommodate up to 500 visitors," the museum said in a recent newsletter. About 36,000 people visited the site last year, the museum's 10th anniversary.

The underground shelter in Carp, just west of Ottawa, was operated by the Defence Department for more than three decades, beginning in 1959, as a safe haven for top government officials in the event of nuclear war. Nicknamed after John Diefenbaker, prime minister at the time the facility was built, it was turned into a museum in 1998.

The project to increase its capacity involves changes to meet fire code regulations.

"By contributing to this cause, you'll help ensure that this Cold War artefact is preserved for all," the museum said.

The Diefenbunker has already received support from the City of Ottawa, Trillium Foundation of Ontario and federal government, executive director Alexandra Badzak said in the newsletter.

The museum collects a wide variety of Cold War-related items, and sells games, books, novelty T-shirts and more, in The Cold War Store.

Donations can be made via the website, diefenbunker.ca.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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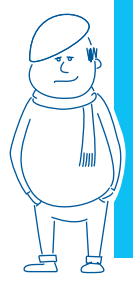

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CAUDALIE

Sommelier Cliff Rames serves a guest at the Caudalie Vinotherapy Spa in New York City.

Grapes are the essence of the Caudalie spas

ANNE DIMON
for Metro Canada

Following a refreshing run through Central Park and a spa treatment, I'm indulging in a glass of Grand Cru Bordeaux, Chateau Smith Hoot Lafitte 2004, and listening to sommelier Cliff Rames' tasting notes.

It's "a dark, rich, full-bodied wine, with an earthy nose and nuances of blackberry, blackcurrant — typical of the red wines of the region," says Rames. "A good sense of oak with just a touch of sweetness."

Sipping a good wine as a sommelier explains the intricacies of the beverage is nothing new. But on this occasion I'm fresh from my Cabernet Scrub and sitting in the French Paradox Lounge of the Caudalie Vinotherapy Spa, still in my spa robe. The spa claims to be the only one in the U.S. with its very own sommelier certified by the Court of Master Sommeliers in London England. That's new.

Located on the fourth floor of The Plaza Hotel, Caudalie Vinotherapy Spa opened last October. The name is a wine industry term referring to the length of time flavour remains on the palate.

The spa is handsome and modern with earthy tones and natural elements. Its design incorporates word carvings created to resemble vines — a nod to nature in the middle of an urban forest. A full menu of services ranges from $45 US for a manicure to $965 for the Divine Love Ritual for Two. A wine tasting is included with a treatment and is usually offered to guests as they relax in the lounge.

A menu of light foods, such as finger sandwiches, canapés and a cheese plate is available, and Rames is on hand to suggest suitable pairings. Some day packages such as the Intro to Wine Therapy Spa Ritual ($450 per person), include lunch and a tasting of three to six wines. Other packages include mini wine seminars.

The phrase French Paradox ties into the power of the grape. While the French eat lots of rich foods, reports indicate they don't experience the heart attack rates of North Americans — and research has linked that to some of the anti-oxidant components in red wine. Grape seeds are said to have the highest concentration of anti-oxidants.

For my Crushed Cabernet Scrub (50 minutes, $145) the therapist mixed whole grape seeds with grape seed oil, honey, brown sugar and lotion from the Caudalie line. The treatment also includes a wrap to allow the skin to absorb the nutrients, followed by a light body massage and lotion application. Another signature treatment you won't find everywhere is the Red Wine Barrel Bath.

While some ingredients for the spa's wine-inspired treatments are produced in Bordeaux, the grape seeds come mostly from the vineyards in Long Island. "It's our way of supporting local wineries," says general manager Joyce Davis. "We also carry their wines."

Discussing wines can make a spa experience a bit more sociable and soon I'm chatting with another guest — Mary Miles, a New York lawyer who tells me she recently visited the Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte in Bordeaux, France, the birthplace of the Caudalie spas (which also have location sin Spain and Italy).

She says what was most impressive is that guests stay in a working vineyard and the spa uses products grown right outside the window — what she calls it a "full-circle organic experience."

Anne Dimon is a spa and wellness travel writer and editor of traveltowellness.com.

On the web

- For more on Caudalie Vinotherapy Spa in New York, see caudalie-usa.com.
- For other vinotherapy spas, visit traveltowellness.com/vinotherapy-spas.

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Picture perfect
If you're planning a destination wedding, consider the climate you'll be in when planning your hair and makeup — melting concealer and eyeliner aren't part of an ideal beach ceremony. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Destination weddings 'recession-proof'

>> Continued from page 19

VERONICA MUNSEY
A newly-married couple kisses on a beach in Jamaica.

dents saying they estimate 75 or more guests will attend their destination wedding. "While the bleak economy continues to take a bite out of the travel industry, the forecast for destination wedding travel is looking up," said the magazine.

Destination wedding spending grew more than 300 per cent from 2001 to 2006, according to the publication, and is projected to grow at an annual average rate of 14 per cent.

And one Caribbean hotel executive went so far as to tell USA Today that the destination wedding trade is "recession-proof."

"This is a recession-proof market," the newspaper quoted Donald Foste, group sales director for Occidental — a hotel chain with properties in Aruba and the Dominican Republic — as saying. "Brides are going to get married regardless of what's happening in the economy."

Certainly, destinations who want to attract wedding business are still pulling out the stops when it comes to marketing.

As one example, on March 29, a single destination, Jamaica, will hold its very own destination wedding show in New York City to attract couples and their guests — a bold step regardless of the economic climate.

These days, you can find plenty of wedding planners in almost any location you can think of, and major resorts are increasingly likely to have a wedding co-ordinator on staff as well as a variety of wedding packages.

But just as a frugal bride would try to look beyond a supplied vendor list were she to hold her big day closer to home, don't assume that the services a resort suggests are necessarily your only option.

With a bit of online digging — as well as looking into what suggestions the destination's tourist board can offer — you may well find you can cobble together services from an officiant to a florist for less than a resort would charge.

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Ancient secrets **Protecting the pyramids**

AMIR NABIL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The great pyramids of Giza are increasingly crowded by hawkers and the encroachment of Cairo's buildings. This week, the Egyptian antiquities chief announced travellers will soon be able to explore the inner chambers of the 4,500-year-old "bent" pyramid — known for its oddly shaped profile — as part of a comprehensive plan to conserve the area around the ancient monuments.

Giving a fair shake to Costa Rica's Caribbean coast

COSTA RICA Jungle lodges, beach towns and wildlife-watching can all be found on Costa Rica's Caribbean coast, and Caribbean Travel + Life magazine took a look at the area in its April issue.

The magazine says that while the Pacific side of Costa Rica gets most of the visitors to the country, the Caribbean side has rich rainforests and exotic creatures like howler monkeys, bull sharks and crocodiles. Tortuguero National Park is known for its turtles. The wild beaches, with rainforests often reaching right to the shoreline, include Playa Negra, named for its black volcanic sand. Puerto Viejo is known for surfing.

Caribbean Travel + Life recommends Costa Rica Expeditions, costaricaexpeditions.com, for help in booking your trip. Places to stay mentioned in the article include Tortuga Lodge, Almonds and Corals, Selva Verde and Sueno Azul.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Park damaged by Ike to reopen

GALVESTON, TX. Galveston Island State Park plans to reopen the bay side of the park to weekend visitors on March 21, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. It will be open Saturdays and Sundays through November, sunrise to sunset free of charge. The park has been closed for the past six months due to damage from Hurricane Ike. The beach side of the park remains closed while damaged facilities and debris are removed.

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Selling betel nut with sex

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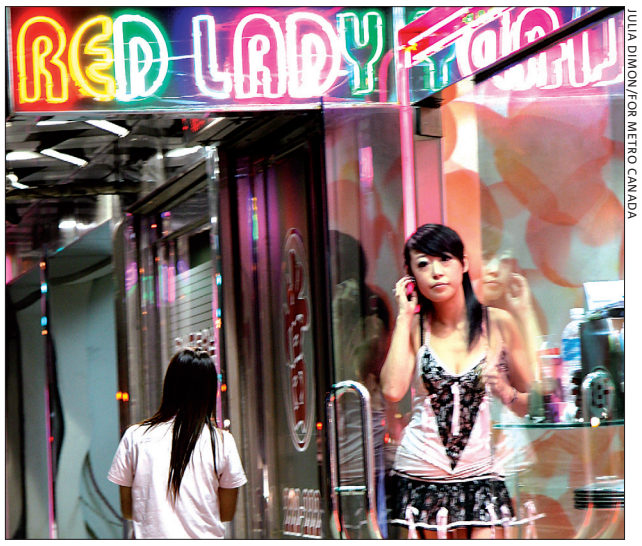

JULIA DIMON/FOR METRO CANADA

In Taoyan, tourists will spot the controversial Betel Nut Beauties at roadside kiosks selling the chewing tobacco-like stimulant.

Tourists passing through the streets of Taiwan may notice an unusual cultural phenomenon. It looks like a scene from Amsterdam's Red Light district, with scantily-clad girls soliciting customers from neon-lit boxes. Tourists might assume these ladies are sex workers, but, here on the hazy streets of Taoyan, a city an hour outside of Taipei, the girls aren't selling sex. They're selling betel nut.

Consumed throughout South East Asia, betel nut, from the fruit of the betel nut palm, is a mild stimulant similar to tobacco. Chewing it is a ceremonial tradition, and a habit associated with Taiwanese identity and masculinity. It's common to see its byproducts: Red stained teeth and sidewalks covered in gobs of scarlet spit.

Today, many users are long-distance truck drivers looking for a quick pick-me-up. Though a known carcinogen, the highly demanded product is sold along freeway on-ramps.

To make the product more desirable to consumers, vendors employ young, attractive women known as Binlan Xi Shi or Betel Nut Beauties.

They stand in provocative outfits at roadside booths, selling bags of betel nut to commuters. There are an estimated 60,000 booths, with thousands of girls working in the industry. They are typically 18- to 25-years-old, making $30,000 to $40,000 Taiwanese new dollars per month (about $1,100 to $1,500).

With kiosks concentrated in the Taoyan area, the competition is fierce. The girls are paid based on their number of clients, so there is a financial incentive to dress erotically to attract customers. Costumed in pink lace teddies and leopard print lingerie, many of the girls wear more blue eyeshadow than fabric.

In this relatively conservative country, Betel Nut Beauties have become a controversial topic. Locals argue that their outfits are too sexy, it exploits women and is "a plight on the Taiwanese landscape." Others chalk it up to marketing, likening the beauties to cigarette girls of the 1930s.

Ching Jie Lee, a 22-year-old Betel Nut Beauty, doesn't understand why there's such stigma surrounding her line of work. "We are not prostitutes. It's a normal job, like anything else," she says. "I chose this job and my family is proud of me ... as long as I don't wear anything too short."

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing Sundays at 8:30 p.m. EST on OLN; juliadimon.com.

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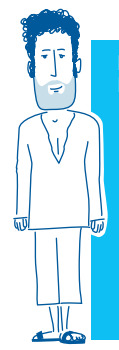

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Metro Drive

World Car finalists

Ford Fiesta, Toyota iQ, and Volkswagen Golf VI have been named the finalists for the 2009 World Car Award. The top three entries for the World Car Design of the Year were Citroën C5 Sedan/C5 Tourer, Fiat 500, and Jaguar XF. The winners will be named at the New York International Auto Show April 9. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Heading out on hybrid highway

Honda Insight Hybrid takes the next giant step in environmentally-friendly vehicles

JIM ROBINSON
for Metro Canada

Honda has passed the next great milestone on the road to a greener future with the 2010 Insight Hybrid.

Smaller than a Honda Civic, the Insight five-door hatchback seats five adults, has a flat cargo floor with the back seat folded and can travel up to 640 kilometre on one 40-litre tank of gas.

The Insight doesn't go on sale until Earth Day (April 22) and pricing has yet to be announced, but it will be "competitive" with its main rival, the Toyota Prius.

The heart of the Insight is its fifth generation IMA (Integrated Motor Assist) system that first bowed on the original two-seat Honda Insight a decade ago.

IMA uses energy stored in a battery pack to provide extra power to the engine when needed. What is different is the new IMA allows the Insight to run on pure battery power under certain low load conditions.

A 1.3-litre, four-cylinder gasoline engine and a 10-kilowatt electric motor are the power source of the IMA system. Combined, they produce 98 hp and 123 lb/ft of torque. An ultra-thin brushless DC motor is located between the engine and the CVT transmission. During acceleration, the motor adds power. Under braking or gentle deceleration, it acts as a generator capturing kinetic energy to recharge the battery.

When you come to a stop, the engine turns off and the Insight runs on the battery. When you move off, the engine comes back on. Honda calls this Idle Stop.

The seven-module nickel metal hydride (Ni-MH) battery is composed of 84 D-size (1.2 volt) cells giving a total of 100.8 volts and a capacity of 5.7 ampere-hours. Because it has fewer than the 11 modules in the Civic Hybrid, Honda engineers were able to place it under the floor along with the Intelligent Power Unit (IPU) that controls the IMA system. Besides the battery pack, the IPU contains the power control unit (ECU) and electric control unit (ECU) along with the cooling system for the battery pack.

Despite its complexity, the Insight is straightforward to drive, but there are some interesting extras.

The layout of the instrument panel is like the Civic with an upper tier for the digital speed readout and a lower tier for the tachometre and fuel level. But on the upper level, the speed (shown in numerals) is backed by a colour band that is coloured blue when fuel is being used aggressively. It turns blue-green when the driving style is moderate and then green when fuel is being consumed efficiently. So, at a glance you can tell if you are being good or bad to the environment.

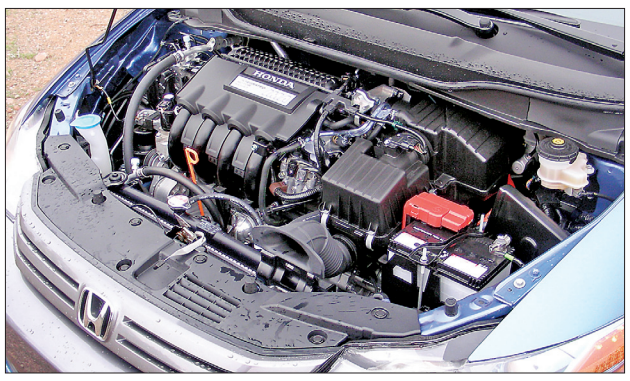
There will be two trim levels in Canada starting with the LX that features climate control, power locks/windows/doors, remote entry, cruise control and more.

The EX adds stability control, alloy wheels, steering wheel mounted paddle shifters, Honda's navigation system with bilingual voice recognition and Bluetooth connectivity.

Unsaid at the unveiling of the Insight was the sense Honda is turning its attention to positioning itself as the "affordable" green car company as the slightly larger Civic Hybrid will continue to be sold on the same showroom floor.

And with the 2010 Insight, Honda has made a great first step in that direction.

The 2010 Honda Insight Hybrid goes on sale April 22 (Earth Day) with seating for five adults and an estimated average combined fuel consumption of 4.7L/100 km or 60 mpg.



The Honda Insight Hybrid sports a 1.3-litre SOHC four-cylinder engine and a 10-kilowatt electric motor for a combined 98 hp and 123 lb/ft of torque provide power.

2010 Honda Insight

Type: Compact hybrid hatchback
Price: N/A
Engine: 1.3-litre SOHC inline four-cylinder engine and 10 kilowatt electric motor (98 hp, 123 lb/ft)
Drive method: front-engine, front-wheel drive
Fuel economy: (Estimated) 4.8/4.5/4.7L/100 km (58/62/60 mpg) city/highway/combined

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Having fun with potholes

Try not to get swallowed up while driving around the city

AutoPilot

Michael Goetz

metronews.ca/autopilot

It was a dark and stormy night. It was raining so hard everyone had to have their wipers on at top speed — even the pedestrians.

It was already hard to spot the potholes, but now that they were full of water, you couldn't tell what was just a puddle and what was a crater. Up ahead were two lurking potholes. To stay in my lane, I had to drive through at least one. I know I was going to pick the wrong one, just like I always pick the wrong line at McDonald's.

So I drive into this pothole and emerge about 11 minutes later.

OK, slight exaggeration, but it was big. Big enough that when the left front wheel dropped into it, and the suspension bottomed out with a big THUD, I yelled out some deity's name in vain.

Apparently, this was not the only pothole in the city of Toronto. Myles Currie, the city's director of transportation services, told me that in 2008 the city fixed 277,000 potholes. So far this year, it has already fixed about 75,000, almost 100 per cent more than for the same three-month period in 2008.

Currie "filled me in," pun intended, on some pothole fun facts.

The main contributor to how many potholes are created is the number of freeze-thaw cycles we get. When it's above freezing, melting snow and ice creeps into cracks to get below the road. Then when things freeze shortly after, the below-the-road water becomes ice, which expands and pushes up the asphalt. Then when vehicles drive over that pushed-up asphalt, it usually breaks, and voila, a pretty pothole.

"We've already had about 17 of those cycles this past winter, that's why we have such an increase in potholes over last year," said Currie. Normally, the peak time for freeze-thaw cycles starts in late February and extends to the beginning of May (a.k.a. pothole spawning season).

COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"Pothole spawning season" usually starts in late February and extends to the beginning of May.

But this winter we've been in juicy freeze-thaw mode since mid-December.

Because the city knew a bumper crop was coming, it increased the number of crews on daily pothole repair duty to 30 or 40 from last year's norm of about 15. A crew is made up of two or three workers.

The repair process is not complex.

"We do our best to sweep out any debris from the hole, then fill it in with hot asphalt, tamp it, then move on to the next one," Currie said. Forty crews can usually fix about 2,500 potholes a day, which works out to about $25 per repair.

So far, the city has already spent about $1 million to repair those 75,000 holes in 2009, and figures it spent $6.9 million to attend to those 277,000 holes that showed up in 2008.

If holes get really big, workers have to square it off, fill it in, and roll it.

"That's why we really want to hear from the public," Currie said. "Because our obvious preference is to get to these potholes when they're smaller."

The city has its own pothole patrollers, but encourages citizens to call the pothole hot line: 416-599-9090, plus # symbol, plus 164.

I've reported my crater. But because there isn't a witness protection program for potholes informants, I did it anonymously. We live in the neighborhood. I don't want trouble.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for more than 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

Maserati injects passion into Quattroporte Sport

DreamCar

PETER BLEAKNEY
for Metro Canada

The Pininfarina-penned Maserati Quattroporte proves the large luxury sedan need not be stoic, imposing or contentious.

The Italians know a thing or two about passion. Just look at their high-end cars.

We all know Ferrari, Lamborghini, Alfa Romeo, et al have created some of the most achingly desirable exotics extant. But what about the four-door premium sport sedan?

The Pininfarina-penned Maserati Quattroporte proves the large luxury sedan need not be stoic, imposing or contentious. How about bold, curvaceous and enduringly beautiful? If Sophia Loren were a car ...

Introduced in 2003, and first sold in Canada in 2005, this looker initially had a few issues. So Maserati has been gradually teaching the Quattroporte a few manners.

The V8 went from dry sump to wet sump and the racy transaxle was replaced with a six-speed auto bolted to the engine (a collaboration between Maserati and German tranny specialist ZF). An optional "Skyhook" active damper system smoothed out the ride somewhat.

Now the folks at Maserati have decided it's high time to inject some extra passion into their flagship sedan. Topping out the 2009 range is the $179,900 Quattroporte Sport GT S, a harder-edged version of the $169,900 4.7-litre Quattroporte S. It gets a 12 hp boost to 433 hp at 7,000 rpm (torque remains 361 lb.-ft. at 4,750 rpm), a modified ZF six-speed auto operated by larger paddle shifters, 20-inch alloys and heavily revised underpinnings. The zero to 100 km/h dash drops by 0.3 seconds to 5.1.

2009 Maserati Quattroporte Sport

Base price: $179,900
Engine: 4.7L V8
HP: 433 hp
Torque: 361 lb.-ft.
Fuel consumption: 15.7 L/100 km (18 mpg) combined Euro cycle

While unravelling some very scenic and challenging roads in northeast Italy, the first question that came to mind was: This car weighs how much? Hats off to Maserati for dialling in an intimate, balanced chassis setup that completely belies the car's 1,990 kilograms. Maserati has ditched the Skyhook active damper system (although it is optional), lowered the ride height and has gone with carefully tuned springs and dampers — 28 per cent stiffer in front and seven per cent at the rear.

The revised hydraulic steering is precise and well weighted, and through quick transitions, body control is superb. This sedan really does think it's a sports car.

Yes, the ride is al dente, but even over the rough stuff the GT S was unflappable and rode well within the bounds of civility.

And like all good Italian engines, it comes alive when on the cam. Below 4,000 rpm it's strong and sonorous, but from 4,000 rpm to the 7,200 rpm red line? Mamma mia!

The ZF six-speed pairs beautifully with the V8. It performs delicious throttle blips on downshifts, and cog swapping is so smooth and rapid it makes the case for a twin-clutch transmission redundant.

On sale now, the 2009 Quattroporte Sport GT S is a unique offering in the rarefied world of high performance Euro luxury sedans.

While the Quattroporte has always been desirable for its exclusivity and Italian flair, this well-sorted Sport GT S seems to have hit a sweet spot: Involving, passionate luxury without the nagging.

Two cars unveiled by Ferrari

Ferrari announced two new pieces of good news at the Geneva Motor Show: The arrival of the sporty, dynamic Handling GT Evoluzione (HGTE) Package for the 599 GTB Fiorano, and the world debut of the 599XX, which is a technological laboratory aimed at a select group of clients.

The latter new car incorporates the most advanced technologies resulting from Ferrari's road driving and F1 research. Many of the technological solutions it carries are being used for the first time and have been developed exclusively for this special car.

In addition to the 599 GTB Fiorano equipped with the Handling GTE package and finished in a new three-layer metallic Rosso, and the 599XX in a colour matching the F2008, Ferrari clients and enthusiasts also saw the full range of Ferrari road cars: The Scuderia Spider 16M in a Grigio Titanio livery, the 430 Scuderia in Rosso Corsa, and two Grand Tourer models — the Ferrari California in Nero Metallizzato with a Sabbia interior and the flagship 612 Scaglietti.

The latter will be displayed in the Atelier, a dedicated area where owners can get a taste of the virtually endless personalization options on offer to them.

FROM CARGUIDE

Volvo extends DRIVe range

EFFICIENCY Volvo is extending its green DRIVe range after dramatically reducing CO2 levels and increasing fuel efficiency in seven models.

The full DRIVe range was unveiled at the Geneva Motor Show and will now include the XC60 crossover, V70 and XC70 premium wagons and S80 executive sedan.

The current DRIVe cars, C30 SportsCoupe, S40 sedan and V50 Sportswagon all offer class leading CO2 emissions thanks to an intelligent Start/Stop system.

All the new DRIVe models will be available in Europe in summer 2009 with further specification and pricing details being announced closer to the release.

FROM CARGUIDE

HONDA
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EVENT

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- #1 selling vehicle – car or truck*
- Over 3 million built in Ontario by Canadians

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model FA1509JNX

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Civic

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$16,990 MSRP‡ FOR CIVIC DX SEDAN

Civic EX-L Coupe
model FG1109JN

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#Limited time lease offers based on new 2009 Honda models. Lease example based on 2009 Civic Sedan DX, model FA1529EX available through Honda Financial Services on approved credit. £1.9% lease APR for 48 months. Monthly payment is $178.00 with $2,664.66 down payment or equivalent trade, $1,310 freight and PDI, first monthly payment and $0 security deposit due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $12,665.79. Taxes, license, insurance and registration are extra. 96,000 kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. Retailer may lease for less. Retailer order / trade may be necessary. †Limited time financing offers based on select new 2009 Civic models. Finance example based on new 2009 Civic Sedan DX, model FA1529EX available through Honda Financial Services on approved credit. ‡MSRP is $16,990 plus $1,310 freight and PDI, financed at 0.9% APR equals $515.42 per month for 36 months. Cost of borrowing is $255.02 for a total obligation of $18,555.02. Retailer may sell for less. Retailer order / trade may be necessary. MSRP of Civic EX-L Sedan, model FA1509JNX /Civic EX-L Coupe, model FG1109JN shown is $23,480/$23,780. ¥Cash purchase incentive offers will vary from model to model. $1,500 cash purchase incentive available on new 2009 Civic models, excluding Civic DX Sedan MT, model FA1529EX / 2009 Civic DX Coupe MT, model FG1129E / 2009 Civic Hybrid, model FA3629E. #/£/†/¥Offers valid from March 3rd, 2009 through March 31st, 2009 at participating Honda retailers. Offers subject to change or cancellation without notice. See your Honda retailer for full details. *As reported by Canadian manufacturers for calendar year 2008. NHL and the NHL Shield are registered trademarks of the National Hockey League. ©NHL 2008. All rights reserved.

Jumbled alphabet on the roads

Car badges can offer insight into the make and model of the vehicle – or just confuse you

MARK ATKINSON
for Metro Canada

Ever need help to figure out exactly what you're following behind on the highway without needing an Enigma machine to help translate?

It's usually the luxury brands that are the worst offenders: Audi, BMW, Infiniti, Lexus, Mercedes-Benz and Volvo. We'll tackle the first three today, and then the final ones next week. Here's your cheat sheet:

Translating car badges can be difficult, especially when zipping along the highway. An Audi, top, and an Infiniti, top right, are just some of the examples on the road today.

Audi

Reasonably straightforward letter/number naming system. "A" for regular cars, "S" for sporty cars, "R" or "RS" for high-performance cars. Off-road models start with "Q," while wagons are "Avant." The number that follows denotes the vehicle's size compared to its siblings: A3 is the smallest, A8 the largest. RS4 is sportier than S4, which is, in turn, sportier than the A4. The TT is the only model that deviates from this pattern.

Models are always designated by engine displacement (i.e., 3.2 = 3.2-litre V6) and forced induction (2.0 T = 2.0-litre turbocharged four-cylinder). All of Audi's engines get direct-gasoline injection, which means you'll see some "FSI" and "TFSI" addenda. Cars equipped with Audi's all-wheel-drive system get a "quattro" badge.

So an A4 Avant 2.0 TFSI quattro would be an all-wheel-drive A4 wagon with the 2.0-litre turbocharged engine. Simple, right?

BMW

Mainstream models (1, 3, 5, 6, 7 Series) are similar to Audi, meaning the smaller the number, the smaller the vehicle. It uses the old-style three-numeral-plus-letter format (i.e., 330i, 535i, 750i, etc.) High-performance models start with "M" (M3, M5, M6), while wagon models are referred to as "Touring," adding a "T" to the badge (i.e., 328iT).

However, the models BMW considers special — the X3, X5, X6 crossovers and Z4 roadster — will be renamed thusly: Rear-wheel-drive models are referred to as "sDrive," meaning the car's full name is the Z4 sDrive30i. All-wheel-drive models, including the 3 and 5 Series, now use "xDrive," so we end up with the X6 xDrive35i. Or the 535i xDrive.

Confused? We're not finished yet.

BMW also cheats with the numbers that "traditionally" denote engine displacement. For example, the 328i, 330i and 335i all use the same 3.0-litre six-cylinder engine, just producing different levels of horsepower. The 328i gets 230 hp, the 330i puts out 260 hp, while the 335i uses two turbochargers to push out 300 hp. The V8 models aren't any better: The 550i and 650i use a 360-hp, 4.8-litre V8, while the X6 xDrive50i and new-for-2010 750i get BMW's new two-turbo 4.4-litre version with 400 hp. Oh, but the X5, which also uses the old 4.8-litre V8, is now the X5 xDrive48i. Wonderful.

But wait, there's more. BMW now offers its 265-hp twin-turbocharged 3.0-litre diesel engine in the 3 Series and X5. That's signified by replacing the "i" with a "d," so they're now the 335d and X5 xDrive35d.

Talk about a headache…

Infiniti

Infiniti's range is much simpler as there are only two sedans and three crossover/sport-utes to consider. All models feature a letter to denote size: The lower the letter, the smaller the vehicle.

For cars, there's "G" and "M" with the latter being the larger of the two.

The numbers that follow always denote engine capacity, meaning the G37 has a 330-hp, 3.7-litre V6 engine, while the M35 has the company's 303-hp, 3.5-litre V6. Only the "M" has an optional engine, which is a 4.5-litre V8 in the M45.

All-wheel drive models use "x" (i.e., M35x) while sport-package cars get either "Sport" or "S" (i.e. G37 S).

The Crossovers/SUVs use similar names — EX, FX and QX — and are equipped with all-wheel drive standard. The FX50 has the company's new 390-hp, 5.0-litre V8, while the ginormous QX56 (which is scheduled to die after this year) has the 320-hp, 5.6-litre V8 borrowed from the Nissan Titan pick-up.

I'm sure that was about as clear as mud, but really, why companies adopt such a useless naming strategy is beyond me.

Watch for Part 2 next week

NV200: Nissan's small, versatile people mover

Nissan is preparing a move into the global small van market with the introduction of its all-new spacious yet compact NV200 small van.

Designed from the outset as both a commercial and a passenger vehicle, the Nissan NV200 brings new levels of space, comfort and practicality to the small van market, both in Europe and other global markets.

There are currently no plans to bring it to Canada.

The NV200 will be available in three different versions: A van with the largest load space in its class and two seven-seat variants; the functional Combi version for loads and passengers; and the more plush passenger car version.

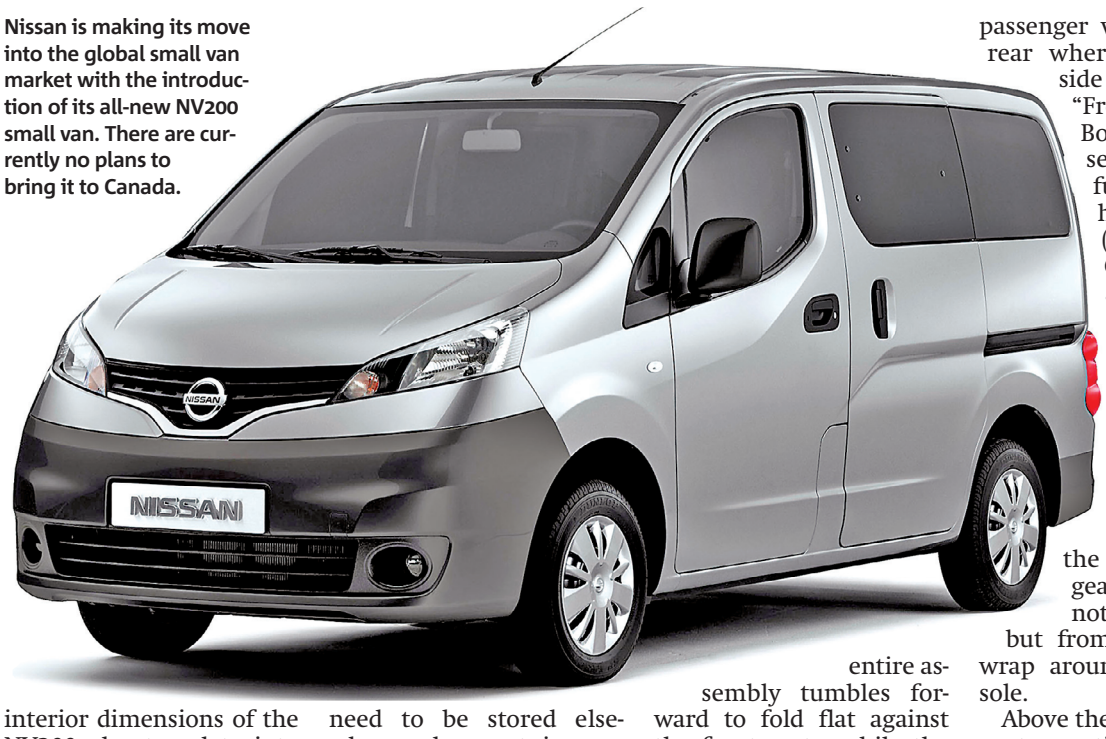
The NV200 uses innovative packaging ideas to create the largest and most practical cargo area in its class. Although a little less than 4.4 metres in overall length, the van version of the NV200 has a load bay that's more than two metres long (2,040 mm).

"The NV200 uses innovative packaging ideas to create the largest and most practical cargo area in its class."

With front-wheel drive and the adoption of a highly compact rear suspension system, the NV200 can house two standard Euro pallets in the cargo area at a time. At 1.84 metres high, the NV200 is no taller than its rivals, while at 520 mm from ground level, the floor itself is the lowest in the class to ease loading, helping to boost the cargo volume to 4.1 metres cubed.

Maximum payload is 771 kilograms.

A large cargo area is a vital attribute for a van, of course, but the generous interior dimensions of the NV200 also translate into ample passenger space in the Combi version.



Nissan is making its move into the global small van market with the introduction of its all-new NV200 small van. There are currently no plans to bring it to Canada.

Unlike some other manufacturers that fit removable seats, which are invariably heavy to lift and need to be stored elsewhere when not in use, the seats in the Combi stay with the vehicle at all times.

The middle row backrest has a 60/40 split to increase versatility and the entire assembly tumbles forward to fold flat against the front seats, while the rear pair folds individually to either side of the load area.

While the van optionally is available with a side window, it differs from the passenger versions at the rear where it has twin side hinged "French" doors. Both seven-seaters have a fully glazed top hinged tailgate (though the Combi will be available with French doors) while the windows on both side doors have a sliding section for extra ventilation.

To create more space in the cockpit, the gear lever extends not from the floor but from the two-tone wrap around centre console.

Above the gear lever, the centre section houses the heating and ventilation controls and the double DIN radio slot. Heating and ventilation extends to all three rows of seats.

FROM CARGUIDE

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CITY: 7.9L/100KM – 36 MPG△

CASH PURCHASE PRICE
$9,995*

5-STAR SAFETY AWARD◊

G3 Wave 5-Door shown with UE1 and PW8**

2009 PONTIAC VIBE

CASH PURCHASE PRICE
$14,995*

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Vibe GT model shown**

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Program excludes other replacement parts, fluids, and any "Additional Required Services" as outlined in the Owner's Manual that may be identified during the inspection of the vehicle. See Dealer for details. ‡0% purchase financing available for 72 months available on 2009 Pontiac G5 XFE Coupe or Sedan 1SP. Financing available on approved GMAC credit only. Down payment and/or trade may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Example: $10,000 at 0% for 72 months, the monthly payment is $138.89. Cost of borrowing is $0, total obligation is $10,000. Offers are unconditionally interest-free. Freight and taxes are not included for bi-weekly payment. Bi-weekly payments based on a purchase price of $15,495 with $2,700 down payment. 0% purchase financing for 60 months available on the following 2009 models: Pontiac G5 SE/GT, Montana SV6. 0% purchase financing for 48 months available on the following 2009 models: Pontiac Solstice, Canyon. 0% purchase financing for 36 months available on all other 2009 models except: Pontiac Vibe, G6 1SX, G8; GMC Envoy, Acadia, Yukon; Buick Enclave, GH vans, GMT 560 family 2, 3 & T. Example: $10,000 at 0% for 36/48/60 months, the monthly payment is $277.78/$208.33/$166.67. Cost of borrowing is $0, total obligation is $10,000. Financing available on approved GMAC credit only. Down payment and/or trade may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Offers are unconditionally interest free. *Offer applies to the cash purchase of 2009 Pontiac (G3 Wave 5-door 1SM/ Vibe FWD 1SM). Cash purchase price reflects discounts or other incentives that are only available when consumers opt for cash purchase offers. By selecting lease or finance offers consumers are foregoing such credit which will result in a higher effective interest rate. ‡*Freight ($1,325/$1,325/$1,325), license, insurance, registration, PPSA, administration fees and taxes are not included. Offers apply as indicated to the purchase of 2009 new or demonstrator models of the vehicle equipped as described. Offers apply to qualified retail customers in the Ontario Pontiac Buick GMC Dealer Marketing Association area only (including Outaouais). Dealer order or trade may be required. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Limited time offer which may not be combined with other offers. See your dealer for conditions and details. †Subject to Vehicle Redemption Allowances. Visit thegmcard.ca for more details including terms and conditions that apply to The GM Card Earnings and Redemption Program. 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Visit gmstudentbonus.ca for more details. iPod® is a registered trademark of Apple Inc. ◊US government star ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program. For more information on safety ratings, go to www.safercar.gov. 2009 Pontiac Vibe received both a 5-star Rating for the driver and front passenger in the Frontal Crash Test and for Front Seat Occupants in the Side-Impact Crash Test. 2009 Pontiac G3 Wave received both a 5-star Rating for the driver and front passenger in the Frontal Crash Test. ♦Applies to 2009 G5 XFE (2AJ37/69). Based on Natural Resources Canada's 2009 Energuide data and GM vehicle segmentation for the Compact Car – Regular segment. ¥®OnStar services require vehicle electrical system (including battery); wireless service and GPS satellite signals to be available and operating for features to function properly. Subscription Service Agreement required. Call 1-888-4ONSTAR (1-888-466-7827) or visit onstar.ca for OnStar's Terms and Conditions, Privacy Statement and details and system limitations. **Pontiac G3 Wave 5-door with UE1 and PW8 shown, MSRP $14,710. Pontiac Vibe GT model shown, $26,070.

Oil is the lifeblood of your vehicle

Changing oil at home can be simple and is an excellent way to save money

A vehicle's oil is imperative for lubricating the engine and assisting in cooling. The steady flow of oil through the engine eliminates much of the heat that is generated and seals the piston rings so they function properly. Good oil will also clean the engine by removing sludge, carbon and more.

Changing your oil at home can be simple and is a great way to save money.

Safety First

- Every vehicle is different, so always follow the vehicle's owner's manual.
- Prepare your tools and supplies before you begin
- Watch out for hazards in and around your workspace and always wear safety glasses, a dust mask and latex gloves.
- Use the correct tools — substituting items can compromise your safety or your vehicle's performance.
- If the job requires specialized knowledge beyond your abilities, seek the assistance of a parts pro, professional mechanic or installer.

Step 1

Make sure the engine is cooled completely before you begin.

Step 2

Pour gunk engine flush into the crankcase (where you pour the oil in). This flush will help remove gum, varnish and sludge from the engine compartment.

Step 3

Run the vehicle at idle for five minutes. Do not drive the vehicle with the gunk engine flush in.

Step 4

Loosen the drain plug. Put the drain pan under the drain plug.

Step 5

Once all the oil has drained, place your new sure drain plug into the oil pan and twist on the protective dust cap. The next time you change your oil you won't have to remove the drain plug; you'll only have to attach a drain hose.

Tip: If you're using the old drain plug, remember to install a new drain plug gasket. This will prevent leaks.

Step 6

Now put the drain pan under the oil filter. Remove the oil filter with your oil filter wrench.

Step 7

Install the new oil filter, tightening according to specs. (See your parts pro if you need specs.)

Step 8

Fill the crankcase with new oil — you're done!

NEWS CANADA

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Lotus unveils latest research engine

Lotus Engineering unveiled its latest research into engine efficiency at the recent 79th International Geneva Motor Show.

The Omnivore engine concept has the potential to significantly increase fuel efficiency for sustainable alcohol-based fuels, which increases the prospect of a greater amount of vehicle miles travelled using renewable fuels.

"The Omnivore engine concept has the potential to significantly increase fuel efficiency for sustainable alcohol-based fuels, which increases the prospect of a greater amount of vehicle miles travelled using renewable fuels."

On display was a single-cylinder research engine monoblock that demonstrates the novel architecture designed for high thermal efficiency when fuelled on any alcohol-based fuel or gasoline.

The Omnivore concept features an innovative variable compression ratio system and uses a two-stroke operating cycle with direct fuel injection. It is ideally suited to flex-fuel operation with a higher degree of optimization than is possible with existing four-stroke engines.

The engine concept features a monoblock construction that blends the cylinder head and block together, eliminating the need for a cylinder head gasket, improving durability and reducing weight. In this case, the application of a monoblock is facilitated by the absence of the requirement for poppet valves.

A novel charge-trapping valve in the exhaust port allows asymmetric timing of exhaust flow and continuous variation of the exhaust opening point.

The variable compression ratio is achieved by the use of a puck at the top of the combustion chamber.

This simple, yet effective system moves up and down, affecting the change in geometric compression depending on the load demands on the engine.

FROM CARGUIDE

SATURN

Maintenance Package included.

Part of the Promise Plus Event.

2009 Saturn VUE® XR model shown

2009 SATURN VUE XE

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2008 Saturn ASTRA® 5-Door XR model shown

2008 SATURN ASTRA

5 YEARS

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HWY - 6.1 L/100 KM (46 MPG)° CITY - 8.5 L/100 KM (33 MPG)°

- Available in 3-door and 5-door models
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2009 Saturn AURA® XR model shown

2009 SATURN AURA XE

3 YEARS

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HWY - 5.9 L/100 KM (48 MPG)° CITY - 9.4 L/100 KM (30 MPG)°

- Better fuel efficiency than the Accord or Camry (excludes hybrids)
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The Continental Supersports is the fastest, most powerful Bentley with 621 horsepower, 0-100 km/h in 3.9 seconds acceleration time and a 204 mph (329 km/h) top speed.

Bentley flexes its muscles

The Continental Supersports is the fastest and most powerful Bentley to date.

It is the extreme Bentley, a muscular two-seater that delivers supercar performance and a highly focused driving experience.

The Supersports is also the first Bentley capable of running on both gasoline and biofuel, pioneering the use of FlexFuel technology in the luxury sector. This represents Stage 1 of the company's commitment to make its complete model range compatible with renewable fuels by 2012.

Available worldwide from fall 2009, the Continental Supersports will be FlexFuel compatible in the majority of markets from launch, with North American cars offering the capability by summer 2010, following regulatory approval.

The Continental Supersports began as an under-the-radar project exploring the possibilities of weight reduction on the Continental GT but with more power and torque.

The results are dramatic. With 621 hp and new Quickshift transmission that halves shift times, the Supersports sets new performance benchmarks for Bentley. It accelerates from 0-100 km/h in 3.9 seconds with a top speed of 204 mph (329 km/h).

"The Supersports is also the first Bentley capable of running on both gasoline and biofuel, pioneering the use of FlexFuel technology in the luxury sector."

Supercar performance is complemented by an array of chassis enhancements including retuned steering and suspension, utilizing lighter weight components, retuned dampers and anti-roll bars.

Agility is further sharpened by the 40/60 rear-biased torque split for the all-wheel drive system, a wider rear track, bespoke lightweight 20-inch alloy wheels and a unique electronic stability program.

Carbon ceramic brakes are standard, benefiting steering response, grip and ride comfort, while saving weight.

Overall, the engineering team has achieved a weight reduction of 110 kilograms (243 lb) compared with the Continental GT Speed.

The Supersports is a strict two-seater featuring all-new lightweight sports seats with carbon fibre clamshell rear panels. In the rear compartment, the seats are replaced by a stowage deck with a carbon fibre luggage retaining beam.

The new interior also provides a showcase for the skills of Bentley's craftsmen and women at the company's factory in Crewe, England.

Signature premium grade leather and bright ware are complemented by carbon fibre panels, replacing traditional wood veneers.

FROM CARGUIDE

Mitsubishi wins Corporate Excellence Award

Mitsubishi Canada Inc. was presented with the 2008 Corporate Excellence Award at the 36th annual Canadian Sports Award (CSA) celebrations.

Hosted and organized by the True Sport Foundation, the 2008 Canadian Sport Awards recognized excellence in sport, and honoured amateur athletes, leaders and corporations who competed and inspired hope during the 2008 calendar year.

The Corporate Excellence Award recognizes and celebrates corporations that provide outstanding support to Canadian Sport over the course of a given year. During 2008, Mitsubishi Motors Sales of Canada Inc. (MMSCAN) donated $480,000 cash to Right To Play in direct support of their activities.

Right To Play is an international humanitarian organization headed by four-time Olympic gold medallist Johann Koss. Right To Play, which is the official sports charity of Mitsubishi Motor Sales of Canada Inc. for 2009, uses sport and play programs and volunteer Athlete Ambassadors to improve life for children and communities in more than 23 countries.

FROM CARGUIDE

Athlete awards

- Athletes receiving awards included Olympic equestrian show jumper Eric Lamaze, who was named Male Athlete of the Year, and Paralympian Chantal Petitclerc, a Right To Play Athlete Ambassador, who was named Female Athlete of the Year.

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[1]Only on the 2009 Versa Sedan 1.6 (B4EG59 AA00), 2009 Versa Hatch 1.8 S (B5LG59 AA00), and 2009 Sentra 2.0 (C4LG59 AA00) models. **MSRP for a 2009 Versa Sedan 1.6 (B4EG59 AA00), manual transmission/ 2009 Versa Hatch 1.8 S (B5LG59 AA00), manual transmission/ 2009 Sentra 2.0 (C4LG59 AA00), manual transmission. ¥Lowest MSRP of any new 2009 Car sold in Canada. $12,498 MSRP for a 2009 Versa Sedan 1.6 S (B4EG59 AA00). Freight and PDE charges ($1,325), license, registration, insurance, duties and applicable taxes (including excise tax and fuel conservation tax, where applicable) are extra. All prices are subject to change without notice. †Program applies only to purchase finance offers on all 2009 Nissan models (except for the 2009 Nissan GT-R, 350Z and 370Z models) purchased and delivered before March 31st, 2009. Offers available only through Nissan Canada Finance on approved credit. Offer does not apply to Nissan Canada Finance standard rate programs. Delayed payment option not available on cash purchase offers. 1st monthly payment occurs at 90 days into finance contract. Contracts will be extended accordingly. Interest charge (if any) will not accrue during the first 60 days of the contract. After the 60 days, interest (if any) starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay the principal and interest (if any) monthly over the term of the contract. Offer available on terms up to 72 months. ††0% purchase financing for up to 36 months available only on all 2009 Versa Hatch, Sentra, Altima Sedan, Rogue and Titan models. Finance Example for a 2009 Versa Hatch 1.8 S (B5LG59 AA00): $13,998 MSRP, financed at 0% APR for 36 months equals $249.94 per month with $5,000 down payment. Cost of borrowing is $0 for a total obligation of $13,998. Up to $84 PPSA, $1,325 freight and PDE, license, insurance registration and taxes are extra. Finance offers are available on approved credit through Nissan Canada Finance for a limited time, may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers. Retailers are free to set individual prices. Retailer order/ trade may be necessary. Vehicles may require factory order. Offers valid between March 3rd to March 31st, 2009. ‡Lease Examples: $12,498/ $13,998/ $14,998 MSRP for a new 2009 Versa Sedan 1.6 S (B4EG59 AA00)/ 2009 Versa Hatchback 1.8 S (B5LG59 AA00)/ 2009 Sentra 2.0 (C4LG59 AA00) at 5.9%/ 2.9%/ 3.9% lease rate for a 60/60/60 month term. Monthly payment is $159/ $159/ $159 with $1,208/ $1,208/ $2,108 down payment, $0/ $0/ $0 security deposit. Freight and PDE charges ($1,325)/ ($1,325)/ ($1,325), license, registration, insurance, duties and applicable taxes (including excise tax and fuel conservation tax, where applicable) are extra. All prices are subject to change without notice. Retailer may lease for less. Lease based on a maximum of 24,000 km per year with excess charged at $0.10/km. Total lease obligation is $10,755.35/ $10,772.40/ $11,658.04. Lease offers are available on approved credit through Nissan Canada Finance for a limited time, may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers. Retailers are free to set individual prices. Retailer order/ trade may be necessary. Vehicles may require factory order. Offers valid between March 3rd to March 31st, 2009. ■Offer applies only to 2009 Versa Hatchback models on 36 to 60 month lease terms. Offer valid between March 3rd to March 31st, 2009. ▲Based on Transport Canada approved test methods. Your actual fuel consumption may vary with driving conditions - use for comparison only. ▲▲$16,898 MSRP for a 2009 Versa Hatch 1.8 SL (B5RG59 AA00/AA10), manual transmission/ $22,598 MSRP for a 2009 Sentra 2.0 SL (C4TG19 AA00), CVT transmission. Destination and PDE charges ($1,325)/ ($1,325), license, registration, insurance, duties and applicable taxes (including excise tax and fuel conservation tax, where applicable) are extra. All prices are subject to change without notice cannot be combined with any other offers. Retailer may sell for less. [1]WardsAuto.com's Lower Small segment, 2008. 2009 Versa 1.8 vs. 2008 competitors. [2]©2008 AutoPacific, Inc. Ideal Vehicle Award. [3]Government star ratings are part of the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) New Car Assessment Program (www.safercar.gov). U.S. model tested with standard side airbags.

Cleveland goes West
As if performing on American Idol last Wednesday wasn't enough, Kanye West capped off a week of work at Fox on Thursday by sitting in on a table read of new animated sitcom The Cleveland Show — a Family Guy spin-off. **PEOPLE.COM**

Entertainment

The unsigned

Kirsten Dunst has not signed on for Spider-Man 4. Director Sam Raimi admitted the actress has not yet confirmed she will reprise her role as Mary Jane Watson in the superhero franchise. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Taking the recession on tour

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

When U2 put out an announcement about their North American tour recently, there was one detail in the press release that stood out: $30 tickets.

It's a move, the band's manager Paul McGuinness said, that was designed to "ensure that U2 fans can purchase a great priced ticket with a guaranteed great view."

While that's a welcomed gesture from thousands of followers who are struggling to make ends meet during this recession, it could have also be a way to make sure the band's tour will be a sold out event.

It's likely U2 would have sold plenty of tickets anyway, and many seats are either $55 or $85, but they're not the only act that seems nervous about touring during this major economic downturn.

Riding the Recession

"We're seeing plenty of reaction to the economy in terms of pricing, from layaway plans at the festivals to packaging of artists, to multi-tiered pricing," says Billboard Magazine's Ray Waddell.

So far, however, touring hasn't suffered. Waddell says this year looks "very solid" so far, as huge acts like Billy Joel, Taylor Swift and Nickelback are hitting the road. But, Waddell cautions, "There will be some impact at some point from unemployment and fear."

While mainstream musicians such as Britney Spears might still bring in the big bucks, it's mid-range groups and even indie bands that could suffer.

Michael Hershfield, CEO of Toronto-based peer-to-peer ticket brokerage LiveStub, says more and more independent acts tour these days and that has saturated the market.

"Because of that," he says, "when consumers' wallets are tight they're not going to go out as many nights as they used to. So indie bands are feeling it."

"I haven't noticed anything yet," says Steven Himmelfarb, a Toronto booker who represents smaller acts like Tokyo Police Club. "All the cheaper ticket shows — $10 to $20 — I have not noticed any difference. There is a looming fear that might change instantly though."

Tickets for U2's upcoming tour are selling for as little as $30.

If touring acts aren't feeling the recession yet, some venues are. In Halifax the legendary Marquee Club — the place where Sloan got their start — closed down in January. "It has been vastly unprofitable," owner Victor Syperek told CBC News late last year.

Waddell thinks more venues could shutter their doors too. He points to Toad's Place, a famous venue in Virginia, as a sign that some clubs just can't beat the recession.

"There is no substitute for 'brand equity,' but love and history can't keep the doors open," he explains.

Clubs might be at risk, but it's the summer festival that could suffer the most. There's a real chance that big name concerts like Chicago's Lollapalooza or the Warped Tour could see sponsorship pulled as more companies cut back on marketing, and ticket prices aren't cheap.

"We're seeing plenty of reaction to the economy in terms of pricing."
Ray Waddell, Billboard Magazine

"Festivals are the most nervous," says Himmelfarb. "They've been cutting back, but because they're trying to build a brand, it's hard for them to a take a year off and just duck the recession."

Clearly, many bands will feel some financial frustration this year, but if an act is really good they should have nothing to worry about. "When a band is hot, a band is hot," says Himmelfarb. "And acts with a lot of buzz always do the best on the road."

Toronto could unmask Phantom

THEATRE Toronto could get the first look when producers unmask the Phantom of the Opera sequel, Love Never Dies.

A leaked casting notice published by theatre magazine Playbill confirmed that the play would debut in an out-of-town tryout, "probably in Toronto, before opening on Broadway."

A spokesperson for Mirvish Productions, which would likely stage the show, had no comment.

According to the casting notice, the new Andrew Lloyd Webber-Glenn Slater musical will feature direction by Jack O'Brien.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt

Read Kenya exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

For complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and tickets, visit: **metronews.ca/movies**

Second baby bundle
Watchmen's Patrick Wilson and his wife, actress Dagmara Dominczyk, are expecting their second child, usmagazine.com exclusively reports. Asked Monday if another little one is on the way, Wilson, 35, told Us, "Yes, we're about halfway there." USMAGAZINE.COM

Massacre's memories honoured

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

The 1989 Montreal Massacre left an indelible scar on Canadian history that won't be vanishing from the national conscious anytime soon. When such an event touches a country so deeply, it's almost inevitable that a movie will be made about the subject.

It's all too rare for filmmakers to find a way to film a true tragedy that works as a piece of cinema while still honouring the memory of the victims. Fortunately, Denis Villeneuve's Polytechnique is one of those rare films.

The reason it works can be attributed directly to the fact that everyone involved was very sensitive about the delicate subject matter they were exploring and ensured they weren't exploiting it in any way. The attitude started with producer and star Karine Vanasse.

"I initiated the project about four years ago when I was 21 for many different reasons that were probably unconscious at first," Vanasse tells Metro. "The fact that I'm the same age as most of the girls who died that day probably brought my attention to the events.

"Then I also met some of the victims' family members and was asked to read a text at one of the Dec. 6 ceremonies. When I met them I realized that maybe there was a point of view of the tragedy that hadn't been told before: What the students had to go through on that day."

"The movie is not an easy one, but I don't think it's overwhelming. It's difficult to take in, but I think it leaves you with something quite positive."
Karine Vanasse, producer and star

Movie feature

The film examines the events of the 1989 massacre through two students attending Montreal's École Polytechnique — where Marc Lepine openned fire on a classroom targetting female engineering students.

Vanasse was quickly found support for the project as well as a director who was perfect for the material.

"I proposed the film to producer Maxime Rémillard and he thought of Denis Villeneuve right away. Denis had been absent from feature films for many years … and we discovered that he wanted to wait until he had grown up a bit so that he could say something more with his films.

"I think it was the perfect time for him to take a delicate subject like this and try to give it his visual poetry while still saying something significant."

Of course the challenge of finding a director was nothing compared to the challenge of approaching the survivors and victims' families about the film. Fortunately, they seemed to recognize that the filmmakers' intentions were pure.

"Nobody was opposed to the film. At a certain point some of them didn't want to continue talking about it, but for the most part the reactions were fairly amazing … We felt sort of a release when they saw film. They felt that their story finally had been told and at last what they had to go through," said Vanasse.

Polytechnique might not offer the most pleasant viewing experience, but it's certainly a rewarding one.

"The movie is not an easy one, but I don't think it's overwhelming. It's difficult to take in, but I think it leaves you with something quite positive. People shouldn't be afraid of watching the film," Vanasse says.

Karine Vanasse stars in Polytechnique.

Opens
- Polytechnique opens in Toronto this Friday.

Family Guy song case tossed out

COURTS A judge has tossed out a lawsuit accusing the makers of The Family Guy of illegally twisting the song When You Wish Upon a Star into an anti-Semitic ballad.

Manhattan federal Judge Deborah Batts says Twentieth Century Fox Film Corp., Fox Broadcasting Co. and the Cartoon Network were within their rights to spoof the song with When You Wish Upon a Weinstein in an episode of The Family Guy. The episode first aired in 2003. THE ASSSOCIATED PRESS

In brief

PEOPLE Alabama National Guard officials say the actor best known as Borat posed as a German journalist and tricked them into giving him a uniform and briefly allowing him to go through training. The Guard's public affairs office said Monday that comedian Sacha Baron Cohen and a film crew pulled the stunt in mid-February at the Alabama Military Academy in Anniston, about 105 kilometres east of Birmingham.
THE ASSOCAITED PRESS

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Designers to honour Michelle Obama
The Council of Fashion Designers of America announced Monday that Michelle Obama will be honoured with a special tribute from the group's board of directors at its annual awards gala in June. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Global style sense

Iman visits Toronto to support Canadian talent

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Iman believes Canadians have just as much fashion sense — and talent — as anyone around the world.

The ever-alluring supermodel and host of Project Runway Canada is in Toronto for LG Fashion Week to support Canadian alumni from last season's cycle of the show and kick off a showing of full collections by this season's final three designers.

With modern fashion melding influences from across the world, Iman sees Canadian talent as being no less potent than those around the world.

"I don't really see anything territorial about fashion because fashion is truly global. Designers are getting inspiration from everywhere. If you look at Elle Canada or any of the other magazines, you see Canadian designers alongside European and American designers," she said.

While designers in Canadian cities close to New York City might sometimes feel overshadowed by the fashion capital, Iman says they shouldn't.

"I don't really see anything territorial about fashion because fashion is truly global"
Supermodel Iman

"The proximity to New York sometimes makes it difficult for (Canadian) designers because there is that spirit of being a stepchild. But they shouldn't feel that way, because the customer doesn't care where the dress is from as long as it looks good," Iman said.

Influential designer Yves Saint Laurent called Iman his "dream woman" and many other famous designers have admitted the statuesque beauty has served as their muse. Iman believes Vancouver-born supermodel Coco Rocha will prove an equally legendary muse to designers around the world.

"Coco is amazing. Canadians should be very proud that she's Canadian but the whole world is claiming her because she's that good. She has a beauty that is very classical but could also look edgy. Her pictures come alive," Iman said.

Along with hosting Project Runway, Iman is CEO of her own cosmetics brand and spokesperson for the Keep a Child Alive charity. Despite being busier now than she even was as a model, Iman still finds time to spend with her husband, famed musician David Bowie, and be a mom.

"I have an eight-year-old, so my life is aligned to that first. I still cook at home, I still take my kid to school, I still have to go to PTA meetings. I always tell people, 'If you only knew how normal (my life) is,'" Iman said.

Though the tough economy has forced many fashion labels to shift focus away from high-end offerings, Iman doesn't necessarily see that as a bad thing.

"Fashion is all about change — if it doesn't change it doesn't move forward. It has gone from one extreme to the other. Now the consumer is dictating where fashion is going to go. In the meantime I'm hoping that there will still be clothes that will uplift us," Iman said.

GETTY IMAGES

Project Runway Canada host Iman is in Toronto this week to support Canadian alumni from last season's show.

Iman to wear Biddell to finale

STYLE Project Runway Canada host Iman says she's getting ready for Toronto Fashion Week with a little help from last season's winner — Evan Biddell.

The Somalian-born supermodel says she will wear one of Biddell's designs to the Project Runway Canada finale on Thursday.

That's the day the fashion finalists will show their collections at Toronto Fashion Week and be judged for the last time by Iman and her panel of design discriminators.

Iman says she invited Biddell to her home in New York a couple of weeks ago to consult on the dress. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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More fashion to come...
Toronto's LG Fashion Week continues until Saturday. The final runway shows on Friday will feature collections from designers Carlie Wong, Evan Biddell and Lucian Matis. On Saturday, Muzik night club will host a closing night party at 7 p.m. METRO NEWS SERVICE

Canada's stylish guys

Besides models, our fashion talent is overridingly male

Why do most of Canada's top designers pee standing up? The answer is obvious — because they're men.

It was hard not to notice at a Holt Renfrew event Monday night designed specifically to showcase the best in Canadian fashion design that, apart from the models, there wasn't a woman among them.

The retailer's vaunted group of six included Montrealer Denis Gagnon, rising star Jeremy Laing, workaholic Mikhael Kale, menswear dynamo Philip Sparks and the creative duo behind Greta Constantine — Kirk Pickersgill and Stephen Wong. The event was meant to kick off Toronto Fashion Week, where, incidentally, just a third of designers showing are women. Even Holts' boys club is bewildered by the dearth of female talent.

VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Clockwise from top left, designers Kirk Pickersgill, Mikhael Kale, Stephen Wong, Philip Sparks, Jeremy Laing and Denis Gagnon.

"We were just saying, 'Oh my God, we're all boys!'" Kale notes. "It's like the band of brothers, you know."

Kale, who says he works on three and a half hours of sleep a night, notes he has few responsibilities outside of his sewing studio, which is where he lives. He's not married and does not own a pet.

"No spouse, no kids, no time!" he says. "Have you seen the garments? The detail is insane!"

So what do these successful, youngish men possess that their female counterparts lack?

"Not to be mean, but, we want more," says Pickersgill, a fan of 18-hour days. "That group of us, we all thrive outside of Toronto. We want to be with the big boys."

Veteran David Dixon, who's designed a collection of women's clothing inspired by Barbie for the Bay, offers another theory.

"The approach is different, I think, between male and female designers," he says. "A lot of my female contemporaries who are designing clothes, they're sort of their own muse. It becomes a bit more centralized around who they are as opposed to a larger audience."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Runway shows

Toronto Fashion Week runway shows taking place tonight:
- Gaudet, 3 p.m.
- Cheri Milaney, 4 p.m.
- Comrags, 6:30 p.m.
- Andy The-Anh, 7:30 p.m.
- Pink Tartan, 8:30 p.m.
- Joe Fresh, 9:30 p.m.

Style **off the runway**

ENZA ANDERSON/FOR METRO CANADA

Read Metro this week for columnist Enza Anderson's best picks of "off the runway" fashionistas during Toronto Fashion Week. In the crowd following Tuesday's Ula Zukowska's show, were: Deydra Battiste (left), 29, wearing a dress she got as a gift. Her fashion style is "usually mixed with romantic frills and big belts." Wearing Betsey Johnson was Fran Zingone (right), 23. Her fashion style is "random. I just wear whoever I feel."

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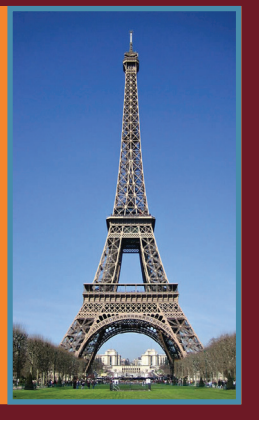

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Daly a new daddy
Carson Daly is a new dad. Daly and girlfriend Siri Pinter welcomed a baby boy named Jackson James Daly on Sunday. USMAGAZINE.COM

Outspoken designer silenced

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

One draped skirt too many got Vancouver designer Genevieve Graham sent home from Project Runway Canada last night.

Designers had to create a dress for top Canadian model Coco Rocha to wear to a red carpet event during New York fashion week.

The judges thought Graham's silky, gold and crème coloured dress was too demure and "safe" for a model of Rocha's stature to wear. While host Iman praised Graham as a strong designer, she also said the judges were tired of seeing the same draped-skirt designs from her, challenge after challenge, sending her home.

Graham, 31, believes the judges didn't necessarily understand her ideas and she feels proud to have stayed true to her own design vision on the show.

"The judges didn't get my style at all but I wasn't going to change what I do. I wasn't willing to compromise my work," she said.

Graham sparred verbally with judges in several episodes, often dismissing their criticisms outright, and her defensive attitude ultimately didn't endear her to them in the long run, something she's fine with.

"Fashion has a lot of personal preference — that's why I chose to take what the judges said with a grain of salt. I think they definitely have their aesthetic favourites," Graham said.

With her barbed, camera-ready denouncements of other designers' dresses and cocky attitude to her own designs, Graham didn't shy away from speaking her mind on the show. She clashed with several of the other designers, particularly Toronto designer Jeff Mackinnon who she took to task for lying about hand-stitching he had drawn on.

While Graham insists she's not the ice queen some people have made her out to be, she makes no apologies for sticking to her guns.

"I wish they had shown me smiling and laughing more because I do have a really soft side. But at the end of the day, I am really confident in my work. You have to be confident in this industry or you can't survive — it's really cut-throat," Graham said.

She feels doing the show was a great experience and gave her another stepping stone to traverse in the industry that she loves.

"I learned a lot about my skills and what I could and couldn't do. I have no regrets in my life — everything you do you learn from," Graham said.

Genevieve Graham says Project Runway Canada showed her tough side and not her softer one, but she has no regrets.

"Fashion has a lot of personal preference — that's why I chose to take what the judges said with a grain of salt."
Genevieve Graham, Vancouver designer

Watch
- Project Runway Canada airs Tuesday nights on Global.

TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 3/18/09	265	353	2	TVO	On the Trail of Tarka		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Little Dorrit (N)		The View From Here		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Lie to Me (HDTV) (N)		Life "3 Women" (N)		(10:02) Life on Mars		News
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere II	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Next Great Prime Minister		Being Erica (N) (DVS)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		The Chopping Block (N)		Nip/Tuck		Murdoch Mysteries		News (N)
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Hollywood	Criminal Minds (N)		American Idol		CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	218	345	11	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Knight Rider		Janice Dickinson Modeling		Janice Dickinson Story		News (N)
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama		Destination Nor'Ouest (SC)		*Train de vie* ★★ (1998, Com. dramatique) Lionel Abelanski.				Aux limites
	-	-	14	-	Raymond	Raymond	News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	*Termination Point* (2007, Suspense) Jason Priestley.				To Serve and Protect		Becker
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds (N)		CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	The Chopping Block (N)		Life "3 Women" (N)		Law & Order "Take-Out"		News (N)
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Scrubs	Better Off Ted	Lost "Namaste" (N)		(10:02) Life on Mars		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	America's Next Top Model (N)		Lost "Namaste" (N)		Law & Order "Take-Out"		News (N)
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	Lie to Me (HDTV) (N)		American Idol		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Mulberry	Celtic Thunder				Visions: The Great Cities of Europe		
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	America's Next Top Model (N)		90210 (HDTV)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (Part 2 of 2) (N)		WBZ News (N)	What's-Store	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332	TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Friends	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Next Model
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour Kevin Gaudet.		CBC News: The National		Tropic of Capricorn		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow Report		CNBC Reports (HDTV)		American Greed		Where Are the Jobs? (N)		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	Baseball World Classic -- Teams TBA. (HDTV) From Dolphin Stadium in Miami. (Live)						Sportsnet Connected		Baseball
	400	400	30	TSN	That's Hockey!	Boxing: Lewis vs. Rahman		NHL Pregame	NHL Hockey Dallas Stars at Calgary Flames. (HDTV) (Live)				
	411	457	58	OLN	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman Costa Rica.		Mantracker	Mantracker	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman
	417	406	81	SC	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Pinks Outtakes	Pinks Outtakes	Pinks (HDTV)	Drag Race	Drag Race	Wrecked	Pimp My Ride
family	551	542	25	YTV	In Real Life		Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Karaoke Star Junior		Falcon Beach "Tidal"		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken	Father of Pride	Moral Orel
	556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Will & Grace	Friends	Grocery	Grocery Bag	Supersize vs. Superskinny		Stuck (N)	Maxed Out (N)	Maxed Out
	570	580	29	MM	disBand	disBand	Redemption	Redemption	Degrassi: TNG	Degrassi: TNG	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	PunchMuch
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Exterminators	Exterminators
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Linea di Confine (Italian).				Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36	MMM	mmmtop	MusicProfile	Where You At	Revival	Confessions of a Teen Idol		Confessions of a Teen Idol		Revival
	575	583	38	CMT	CMT's Greatest		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Three Chords
	616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		Cashing In	About a Girl	G-Spot	Cock'd Gunns	Big Love (HDTV)		House
	620	523	40	BVO	The Achievers	Landscape	Arts & Minds	Bravo!Videos	Wingfield	Wingfield	Death at-Opera	Broadway	Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	Chop Shop	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	Kimora: Fab	Kardashians	ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "Good Wives Club"		Outlaw Bikers		Ice Road Truckers		NCIS "Good Wives Club"		Sea Hunters
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jon Dore Show	Demetri Martin	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Mansions	Property Shop	Property Virgin	Unsellable	Hid Potential	Really Big Flip	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	*Galaxy Quest* ★★★ (1999, Science Fiction) Tim Allen.				Fresh Prince	Seinfeld	Family Guy
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*Sunset Park* ★★ (1996, Comedy) Rhea Perlman.				Harlem Heights	Harlem Heights	Judge Hatchett
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		Primeval		Stormworld (N)	Grand Star	Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	Room Raiders	After	MTV News	Cribs	The Real World		The Real World (N)		MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Vanity Insanity	Ad Persuasion	Ad Persuasion	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy	Married... With	Seinfeld
	603	561	56	FOOD	Chef at Home	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		Iron Chef America		Ultimate Recipe Showdown		Restaurant
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Summer Wine	Foot in Grave	SOUL "Exile" (N)		Driven-Vision	Supernatural	Poltergeist
	621	527	63	STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		TMZ (N)	etalk	Blush: Make-Up Artist		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos	Comfy Couch	Big & Small	Max & Ruby
	115	711	101	TVA	Poule-oeufs or	Star Académie:	Destinées (HDTV) (SC)		Dommages et intérêts (SC)		TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	126	730	102	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	VIVA	Judging Amy		Medium		Medium		Mediums	Psychic Detect	Mediums
	300	601	301	M1	*Peaceful War.*	(7:25) *The Ruins* ★★ (2008, Horror)			*Forgetting Sarah Marshall* (2008, Romance-Comedy)				*Reign Over Me*
	305	612	306	PIX	*Cutthroat Isle.*	(7:20) *Crossover* ★ (1980, Drama)			*Scream 3* ★★★ (2000, Horror) David Arquette.				*Two Solitudes*

critics'corner

Anna and Kristina's Grocery Bag
An apple a day keeps the doctor away, but a clove of garlic a day keeps everyone away. Just kidding; garlic is good for you, and there are ways to avoid the lethal breath. In this new episode, Anna and Kristina test-drive a cookbook in which every recipe contains garlic. They also compare modern mincing tools to that old kitchen standby, a good chef's knife. 8 PM on W

Lie to Me
Lightman (Tim Roth) finds himself in a compromising position when an old friend (guest star D.W. Moffett) hires him to sniff out a corporate spy at a pharmaceutical company, where Lightner finds a high-level conspiracy surrounding a risky new drug. The team also is hired by the State Department to help negotiate the release of two American citizens (guest stars Brian Norris and Jessie Linde) imprisoned in Yemen in the new episode "The Best Policy." 8 PM on GTV

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Swift doesn't discuss sex

Taylor Swift has no problems talking about dating — and boys — but don't ask her about sex. "I think when you talk about virginity and sex publicly, people just automatically picture you naked," the 19-year-old singer tells Allure for its April issue. **PEOPLE.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

Winehouse pleads not guilty

PEOPLE Amy Winehouse cracked her knuckles, adjusted her beehive — and to the delight of the 20 reporters in a London courtroom — spoke clearly from behind a clear plastic shield on the stand Tuesday morning, people.com reports.

Uttering only a few lines during a 15-minute hearing in the City of Westminster Magistrates Court, Winehouse proudly proclaimed her name as Amy Jade Civil — her married name. And, leaning forward to speak through a gap in the plastic, she pleaded "not guilty" when a charge of common assault against Sherene Flash was put to her.

The assault is alleged to have happened in September 2008 in Berkeley Square, London, at a high society ball.

Winehouse, 25, was dressed in a summery floral print, low-cut dress, which revealed her many tattoos and her bra strap, and four-inch pink stilettos. Asked at one point, as she fidgeted with her hair, if she was okay, she turned a security guard and said, "Me? I'm alright."

Watching the proceedings from a few feet away was her father Mitch and a minder, who had driven her down to the court from her new home in Barnet, north London. District judge and chief magistrate Timothy Workman set a trial date of July 23 and Winehouse was remanded on bail.

Leaving the hearing, the singer strutted and posed for the gathered photographers before being whisked away.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Natasha's brain injury

HEALTH The fall that actress Natasha Richardson took on a Quebec ski hill could have caused one of several brain injuries, say doctors who deal with the all too common head trauma.

After suffering what was reported as a minor fall on a beginners' hill at the Mount Tremblant ski resort on Monday, Richardson seemed to be fine. But about an hour later in her hotel room, she complained of feeling unwell and was taken to hospital. She was later transferred by private jet to New York City.

Little was known yesterday about her condition, which has been described in various unconfirmed reports as anywhere from minor to life-threatening.

However, doctors not involved in her case but experienced with head injuries say her reported symptoms are consistent with a blood clot in or around the brain, which can occur when a blow to the head or neck causes one or more blood vessels to rupture.

"There are at least two major conditions that can happen after a head injury," said Dr. Charles Tator, a neurosurgeon at Toronto Western Hospital. "One is the development of a blood clot. And the blood clot could form inside the brain tissue itself or between the skull and the brain."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Goldstein suing jet company for damages

LEGAL DJ AM, Adam Goldstein, has taken a leaf out of mate Travis Barker's book in suing the company who owned the Learjet which almost became his fiery coffin last year, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The two friends were travelling back to Los Angeles from South Carolina when the jet failed to clear a runway, crashed and burst into flames.

Although the pair survived the crash, their four friends weren't so lucky, and now the music men are determined to put things right in their memory, and gain some compensation for the third degree burns they both suffered.

In new legal papers, obtained by TMZ, Goldstein is calling for $10 million US in damages for medical bills, lost earnings and profits and other economic damages.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Surgery before Jackson show?

IMAGE Before Michael Jackson takes the stage this summer for his farewell shows at London's O2 Arena, he's allegedly making a stop at the doctor's office.

"Michael has consulted some of the world's best cosmetologists and surgeons in preparation for this comeback," writer Ian Halperin tells the Sun. Jackson's reps deny the claims, but then again they also say the only work he's ever had done is one nose job to help him breathe.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Mayer Twitters about Jen

PEOPLE As he copes with another split from Jennifer Aniston, John Mayer has turned to Twitter to express his thoughts, us-magazine.com reports.

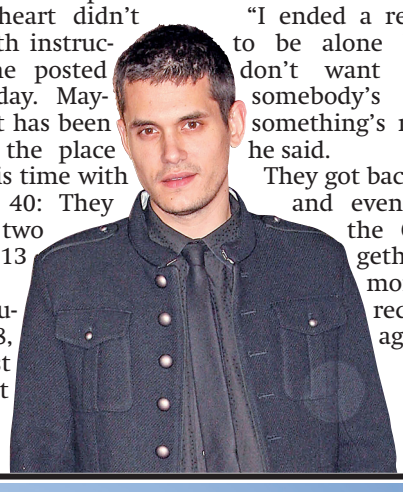
"This heart didn't come with instructions," he posted on Monday. Mayer's heart has been all over the place during his time with Aniston, 40: They broke up two times in 13 months.

In August 2008, they first called it quits. At the time Mayer blabbed about the split to paparazzi outside his NYC gym, stressing that he was the one who broke things off.

"I ended a relationship to be alone because I don't want to waste somebody's time if something's not right," he said.

They got back together and even attended the Oscars together last month, and recently split again.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Competition still on, says Tyra

CAREER After an New York City casting call for America's Next Top Model turned ugly Saturday as hundreds of hopefuls were caught in a stampede resulting in three arrests and six injuries, the show's host and executive producer Tyra Banks tells aspiring models that they will still have a chance to compete, us-magazine.com reports.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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OLG

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Today Showers 11° / -3° 60%
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Friday Sunny 2° / -5°
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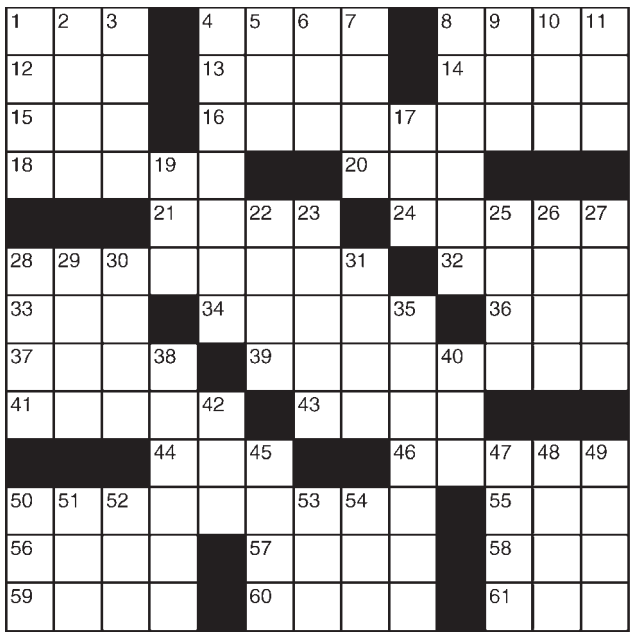
Take Five

For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: **metronews.ca/food**



Crossword across

1 Help
4 Site of Apra Harbor
8 Roosevelt successor
12 Omega preceder
13 Incite
14 Shrek, for one
15 Golfer Ernie
16 Classic Cadillac
18 "Unleaded" brew
20 Family
21 Jamie of "M*A*S*H"
24 Turning point
28 Robin Hood's forest
32 Green land
33 Whammy
34 Some wrestling matches
36 Born
37 Bedouin
39 "Gran Torino" star
41 Minion of Satan
43 Approach
44 Existed
46 U-Haul competitor
50 Tinseltown
55 Water (Fr.)
56 Ontario neighbor
57 Florence's river
58 Pompous sort
59 Require
60 Verse
61 Allow

Crossword down

1 Mimicked
2 Last word in Gilligan's theme
3 Platter
4 Hearty laughs
5 It starts with "http:"
6 Time of your life?
7 Timid
8 Local, to a collegian
9 Past
10 To and —
11 Kennedy or Koppel
17 Gratuity
19 A cont.
22 Libertine
23 Typeface option
25 Provider of veritas
26 Sandwich treat
27 Prepared to drive
28 Roe source
29 Present
30 Physical
31 Tablespoonful or tablet
35 Fame, in 50-Across
38 Partook at kegling
40 Distort
42 Aye canceler
45 Trade
47 Option from Howie
48 Facility
49 Oxidation
50 Coop dweller
51 Raw rock
52 Falsehood
53 Plata's partner
54 Inseparable

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

5								8
	7	8				4	2	
			8	9	7			
		9	2	3	4	1		
4	8						3	5
		1	9	8	5	6		
			7	1	9			
	6	4				7	5	
8								3

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

U	R	A	L	■	E	G	G	S	■	S	O	D		
M	A	G	I	■	T	E	A	K	■	E	R	E		
A	D	A	M	A	N	T	L	Y	■	V	A	N		
■	■	■	B	R	A	S	■	J	O	E	L	Y		
B	I	G	O	T	■	■	M	A	N	N	■	■		
O	N	U	S	■	P	L	A	C	A	T	E	D		
S	K	I	■	P	L	U	C	K	■	E	G	O		
S	Y	N	D	R	O	M	E	■	L	E	A	N		
■	■	E	Y	E	D	■	■	B	E	N	D	S		
L	E	V	E	E	■	S	W	I	G	■	■	■		
I	R	E	■	M	A	C	A	D	A	M	I	A		
F	I	R	■	P	L	A	N	■	T	O	R	N		
E	K	E	■	T	E	N	D	■	E	W	A	N		

7	1	8	6	2	5	4	9	3
3	6	4	9	8	1	7	2	5
9	2	5	3	7	4	1	6	8
8	7	3	4	1	9	6	5	2
4	5	6	7	3	2	8	1	9
2	9	1	8	5	6	3	4	7
6	3	2	5	4	8	9	7	1
5	8	9	1	6	7	2	3	4
1	4	7	2	9	3	5	8	6

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Blue Cheese-stuffed Burgers

INGREDIENTS:
3/4 lb (375 g) extra-lean ground beef
1 cup (250 ml) quick-cooking oats (uncooked)
2 tbsp (25 ml) ketchup
2 tsp (10 ml) Dijon mustard
1/4 tsp (6 ml) black pepper
1/4 cup (50 ml) crumbled blue cheese
4 hamburger buns
Romaine lettuce leaves
1 firm-ripe tomato, sliced
1 small red onion, sliced

METHOD:
1. Preheat broiler. Mix beef, oats, ketchup, mustard, and black pepper in large bowl until well blended. Divide into 8 equal pieces and flatten into thin patties.
2. Place 1 tbsp (15 mL) of crumbled cheese in the centre of each of 4 patties.
3. Top with remaining patties and pinch edges to seal.
4 Broil 4 inches from the heat until well done — 4 to 6 minutes per side. Serve burgers on buns with lettuce, tomato and red onion. **SERVES 4**

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
A good-looking guy has to pay the piper. Your social choices are affected by work. A revelation is made during a reconciliation.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Somebody's desires are aroused by a chance remark. Don't reach for a secret too soon. Try not to wear out your welcome.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Don't let your dreams be threatened by the light of reality. You're aware of someone's uneasiness. Understand the spaces between friends.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
You'll clash with an idiot. Prepare to be the life of the party. A passionate person will calmly break someone's heart.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Someone celebrates getting a generous reward. You could fall into a world of love. There'll be no time left for jagged nerves.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Some hills are too steep to climb. Say something before you leave. A problematical person forces unwanted changes.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Commitments are made and surprises arise. A friend makes a stand about emotional obstacles. Your situation becomes an inspiration.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Be sure you know what you're doing. A friend finds the time to see the truth. A car is nearly involved in an accident.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Someone finds something painful. Don't look down on a last chance meeting. A rough guy is bothering a bad-tempered person.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
A man comes to you with his problems. Don't intimidate those who seek peace. An ailing friend says something stupid.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
A cheater's anxiety attack makes you suspicious. A grouchy friend claims to have a great deal. A humble person is giddy with delight.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
An absent minded lover shows up too late to meet. Impossible things will occur. Keep quiet when a bully is near.

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CITY: 10.6 L/100KM 27 MPG

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CITY: 7.3 L/100KM 39 MPG

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CASH SAVINGS

EX model shown

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